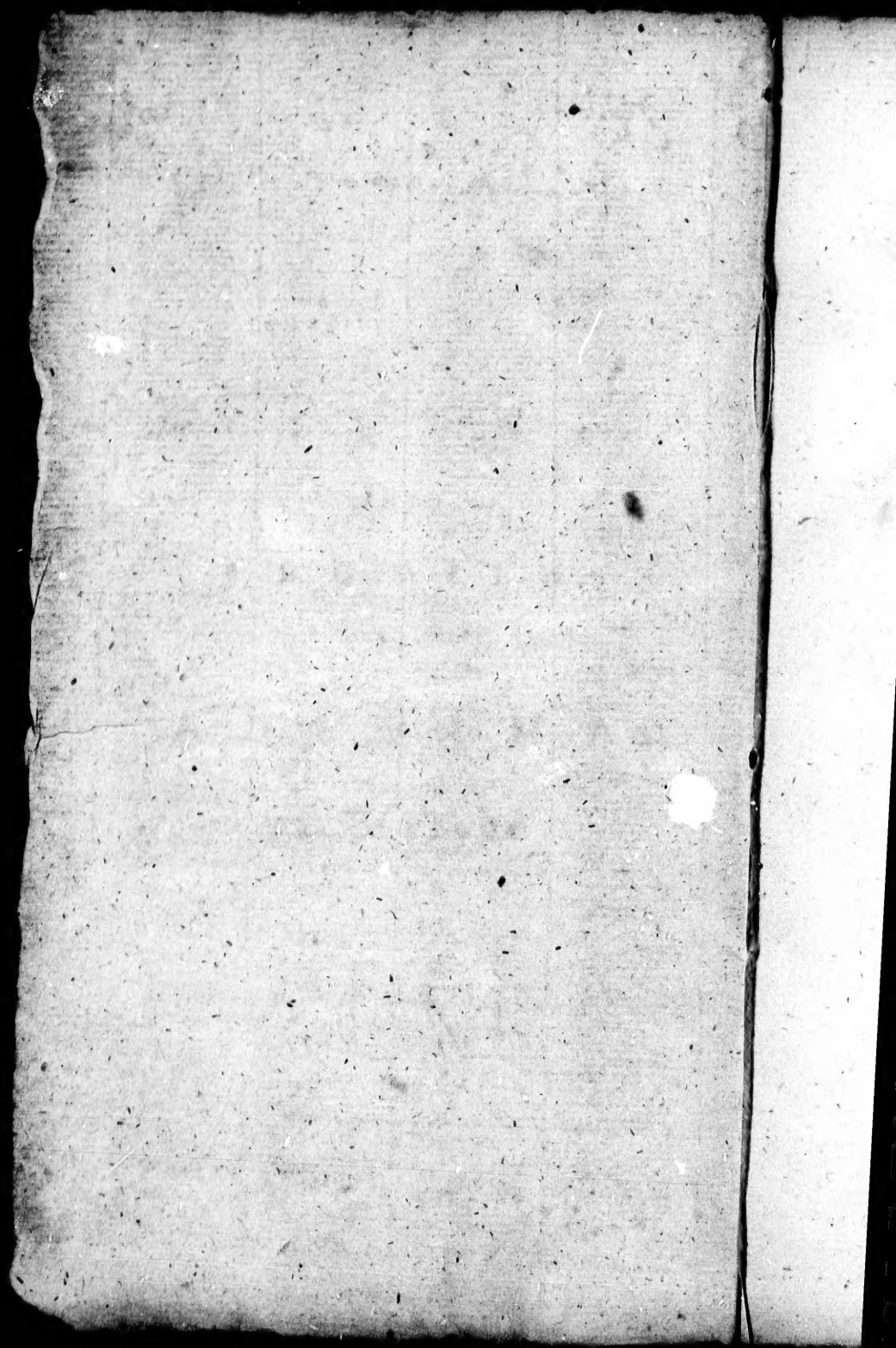




THE
HISTORY
OF
AMERICA.

BOOKS IX. AND X.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
AMERICA
BOOKS IX AND X

THE
HISTORY
OF
AMERICA.

BOOKS IX. AND X.

CONTAINING
THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA,
TO THE YEAR 1688; AND
THE HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND,
TO THE YEAR 1652.

By WILLIAM ROBERTSON, D.D.
PRINCIPAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, HISTORIOGRAPHER
TO HIS MAJESTY FOR SCOTLAND, AND MEMBER OF THE
ROYAL ACADEMY OF HISTORY AT MADRID.

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MDCCLXVI.

1796

THE
HISTORY
OF
AMERICA
BOOKS IX. AND X.

CONTAINING
10,648
THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA
TO THE YEAR 1688: AND
THE HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND
TO THE YEAR 1688.

B. WILLIAM ROBERTSON, D.D.
PROFESSOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, FELLOW OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, AND MEMBER OF THE
ROYAL ACADEMY OF HISTORY AT PARIS.

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MDCCLXXXVIII.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE original plan of my Father, the late Dr. Robertson, with respect to the History of America, comprehended not only an account of the discovery of that country, and of the conquests and colonies of the Spaniards, but embraced also the history of the British and Portuguese Establishments in the New World, and of the Settlements made by the several nations of Europe in the West India Islands. It was his intention not to have published any part of the Work until the whole was completed. In the Preface to his History of America, he has stated the reasons which induced him to depart from that resolution, and to publish the Two Volumes which contain an account of the discovery of the New World, and of the
a progress

progress of the Spanish arms and colonies in that quarter of the globe. He says, "he had made some progress in the History of British America;" and he announces his intention to return to that part of his Work, as soon as the ferment which at that time prevailed in the British Colonies in America, should subside, and regular government be re-established. Various causes concurred in preventing him from fulfilling his intention.

DURING the course of a tedious illness, which he early foresaw would have a fatal termination, Dr. Robertson at different times destroyed many of his papers. But after his death, I found that part of the History of British America which he had wrote many years before, and which is now offered to the Public. It is written with his own hand, as all his Works were; it is as carefully corrected as any part of his Manuscripts which I have ever seen; and he had thought it worthy
of

of being preserved, as it escaped the flames to which so many other papers had been committed. I read it with the utmost attention; but, before I came to any resolution about the publication, I put the MS. into the hands of some of those friends whom my Father used to consult on such occasions, as it would have been rashness and presumption in me to have trusted to my own partial decision. It was perused by some other persons also, in whose taste and judgment I have the greatest confidence: by all of them I was encouraged to offer it to the Public, as a fragment curious and interesting in itself, and not inferior to any of my Father's Works.

WHEN I determined to follow that advice, it was a circumstance of great weight with me, that as I never could think myself at liberty to destroy those papers which my Father had thought worthy of being preserved, and as I could

could not know into whose hands they might hereafter fall, I considered it as certain that they would be published at some future period, when they might meet with an Editor, who, not being actuated by the same sacred regard for the reputation of the Author which I feel, might make alterations and additions, and obtrude the whole on the Public as a genuine and authentic work. The MS. is now published, such as it was left by the Author; nor have I presumed to make any addition, alteration, or correction whatever.

WM ROBERTSON,

QUEEN-STREET,
EDINBURGH,
April 1796.

THE

HISTORY OF AMERICA

THE

HISTORY

OF

AMERICA.

BOOK IX.

THE dominions of Great Britain in America are next in extent to those of Spain. Its acquisitions there are a recompence due to those enterprising talents which prompted the English to enter early on the career of discovery, and to pursue it with persevering ardour. England was the second nation that ventured to visit the New World. The account of Columbus's successful voyage filled all Europe with astonishment and admiration. But in England it did something more; it excited a

BOOK IX.

Spirit of adventure awakened in England by Columbus's discoveries;

B

vehement

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vehement desire of emulating the glory of Spain, and of aiming to obtain some share in those advantages which were expected in this new field opened to national activity. The attention of the English court had been turned towards the discovery of unknown countries, by its negociation with Bartholemew Columbus. Henry VII. having listened to his propositions with a more favourable ear than could have been expected from a cautious, distrustful prince, averse by habit as well as by temper to new and hazardous projects, he was more easily induced to approve of a voyage for discovery, proposed by some of his own subjects, soon after the return of Christopher Columbus.

checked
by unskill-
fulness in
naviga-
tion;

BUT though the English had spirit to form this scheme, they had not, at that period, attained to such skill in navigation as qualified them for carrying it into execution. From the inconsiderate ambition of its monarchs, the nation had long wasted its genius and activity in pernicious and ineffectual efforts

efforts to conquer France. When this ill-directed ardour began to abate, the fatal contest between the houses of York and Lancaster turned the arms of one half of the kingdom against the other, and exhausted the vigour of both. During the course of two centuries, while industry and commerce were making gradual progress, both in the south and north of Europe, the English continued so blind to the advantages of their own situation, that they hardly began to bend their thoughts towards those objects and pursuits, to which they are indebted for their present opulence and power. While the trading vessels of Italy, Spain, and Portugal, as well as those of the Hans Towns, visited the most remote ports in Europe, and carried on an active intercourse with its various nations, the English did little more than creep along their own coasts, in small barks, which conveyed the productions of one county to another. Their commerce was almost wholly passive. Their wants were supplied by

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IX.

strangers; and whatever necessary or luxury of life their own country did not yield, was imported in foreign bottoms. The cross of St. George was seldom displayed beyond the precincts of the narrow seas. Hardly any English ship traded with Spain or Portugal, before the beginning of the fifteenth century; and half a century more elapsed before the English mariners became so adventurous as to enter the Mediterranean.

Expedition from
Bristol,
under the
command
of Cabot.

IN this infancy of navigation, Henry could not commit the conduct of an armament, destined to explore unknown regions, to his own subjects. He invested Giovanni Gaboto, a Venetian adventurer, who had settled in Bristol, with the chief command; and issued a commission to him and his three sons, empowering them to sail, under the banner of England, towards the east, north or west, in order to discover countries unoccupied by any Christian state; to take possession of them in his name, and to carry on an exclusive trade with the inhabitants,

HISTORY OF AMERICA.

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habitants, under condition of paying a fifth part of the free profit on every voyage to the crown. This commission was granted on March 5th, 1495, in less than two years after the return of Columbus from America *. But Cabot (for that is the name he assumed in England, and by which he is best known) did not set out on his voyage for two years. He, together with his second son Sebastian, embarked at Bristol, on board a ship furnished by the king, and was accompanied by four small barks, fitted out by the merchants of that city.

1497.
May.

As in that age the most eminent navigators, formed by the instructions of Columbus, or animated by his example, were guided by ideas derived from his superior knowledge and experience, Cabot had adopted the system of that great man, concerning the probability of opening a new and shorter passage to the East Indies, by

Cabot
discovers
New-
found-
land,
and sails
along the
coast of
Virginia.

* Hakluyt, iii. 4.

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IX.

holding a western course. The opinion which Columbus had formed, with respect to the islands which he had discovered, was universally received. They were supposed to lie contiguous to the great continent of India, and to constitute a part of the vast countries comprehended under that general name. Cabot, accordingly, deemed it probable, that by steering to the north-west, he might reach India by a shorter course than that which Columbus had taken, and hoped to fall in with the coast of Cathay, or China, of whose fertility and opulence the descriptions of Marco Polo had excited high ideas. After sailing for some weeks due west, and nearly on the parallel of the port from which he took his departure, he discovered a large island, which he called *Prima Vista*, and his sailors *Newfoundland*; and in a few days he descried a smaller isle, to which he gave the name of St. John. He landed on both these, made some observations on their soil and productions, and brought off three of the natives.

tives. Continuing his course westward, he soon reached the continent of North America, and sailed along it from the fifty-sixth to the thirty-eighth degree of latitude, from the coast of Labrador to that of Virginia. As his chief object was to discover some inlet that might open a passage to the west, it does not appear that he landed any where during this extensive run; and he returned to England, without attempting either settlement or conquest in any part of that continent *.

If it had been Henry's purpose to prosecute the object of the commission given by him to Cabot, and to take possession of the countries which he had discovered, the success of this voyage must have answered his most sanguine expectations. His subjects were, undoubtedly, the first Europeans who had visited that

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Henry
does not
profit by
Cabot's
discovery;

* Monson's Naval Tracts, in Churchill's Collect. iii. 211.

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IX.

part of the American continent, and were entitled to whatever right of property prior discovery is supposed to confer. Countries which stretched in an uninterrupted course through such a large portion of the temperate zone, opened a prospect of settling to advantage under mild climates, and in a fertile soil. But by the time that Cabot returned to England, he found both the state of affairs and the king's inclination unfavourable to any scheme the execution of which would have required tranquillity and leisure. Henry was involved in a war with Scotland, and his kingdom was not yet fully composed after the commotion excited by a formidable insurrection of his own subjects in the west. An ambassador from Ferdinand of Arragon was then in London; and as Henry set a high value upon the friendship of that monarch, for whose character he professed much admiration, perhaps from its similarity to his own, and was endeavouring to strengthen their union by negotiating the marriage which afterwards

wards took place between his eldest son and the princess Catharine, he was cautious of giving any offence to a prince, jealous to excess of all his rights. From the position of the islands and continent which Cabot had discovered, it was evident that they lay within the limits of the ample donative which the bounty of Alexander VI. had conferred upon Ferdinand and Isabella. No person, in that age, questioned the validity of a papal grant; and Ferdinand was not of a temper to relinquish any claim to which he had a shadow of title. Submission to the authority of the Pope, and deference for an ally whom he courted, seem to have concurred with Henry's own situation, in determining him to abandon a scheme, in which he had engaged with some degree of ardour and expectation. No attempt towards discovery was made in England during the remainder of his reign; and Sebastian Cabot, finding no encouragement for his active talents

BOOK lents there, entered into the service of
 IX.
 } Spain*.

nor his
 immediate
 successors.

THIS is the most probable account of the sudden cessation of Henry's activity, after such success in his first essay as might have encouraged him to persevere. The advantages of commerce, as well as its nature, were so little understood in England about this period, that by an act of parliament in the year 1488, the taking of interest for the use of money was prohibited under severe penalties †. And by

* Some schemes of discovery seem to have been formed in England towards the beginning of the sixteenth century. But as there is no other memorial of them, than what remains in a patent granted by the king to the adventurers, it is probable that they were feeble or abortive projects. If any attempt had been made in consequence of this patent, it would not have escaped the knowledge of a compiler so industrious and inquisitive as Hakluyt. In his patent, Henry restricts the adventurers from encroaching on the countries discovered by the kings of Portugal, or any other prince in confederacy with England. Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. xiii. p. 37.

† 3 Hen. VII. c. 5.

another

another law, the profit arising from dealing in bills of exchange was condemned as favouring of usury*. It is not surprising, then, that no great effort should be made to extend trade, by a nation whose commercial ideas were still so crude and illiberal. But it is more difficult to discover what prevented this scheme of Henry VII. from being resumed during the reigns of his son and grandson; and to give any reason why no attempt was made, either to explore the northern continent of America more fully, or to settle in it. Henry VIII. was frequently at open enmity with Spain: the value of the Spanish acquisitions in America had become so well known, as might have excited his desire to obtain some footing in those opulent regions; and during a considerable part of his reign, the prohibitions in a papal bull would not have restrained him from making encroachment upon the Spanish dominions. But the reign of

* 3 Hen. VII. c. 6.

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IX.

Henry was not favourable to the progress of discovery. During one period of it, the active part which he took in the affairs of the continent, and the vigour with which he engaged in the contest between the two mighty rivals, Charles V. and Francis I., gave full occupation to the enterprising spirit both of the king and of his nobility. During another period of his administration, his famous controversy with the court of Rome kept the nation in perpetual agitation and suspense. Engrossed by those objects, neither the king nor the nobles had inclination or leisure to turn their attention to new pursuits; and without their patronage and aid, the commercial part of the nation was too inconsiderable to make any effort of consequence. Though England, by its total separation from the church of Rome, soon after the accession of Edward VI., disclaimed that authority, which, by its presumptuous partition of the globe between two favourite nations, circumscribed the

activity of every other state within very narrow limits, yet a feeble minority, distracted with faction, was not a juncture for forming schemes of doubtful success and remote utility. The bigotry of Mary, and her marriage with Philip, disposed her to pay a sacred regard to that grant of the Holy See, which vested in a husband, on whom she doated, an exclusive right to every part of the New World. Thus, through a singular succession of various causes, sixty-one years elapsed from the time that the English discovered North America, during which their monarchs gave little attention to that country which was destined to be annexed to their crown, and to be a chief source of its opulence and power.

BUT though the public contributed little towards the progress of discovery, naval skill, knowledge of commerce, and a spirit of enterprize, began to spread among the English. During the reign of Henry VIII. several new channels of trade were opened, and

Expedition to South America, under the command of Sebastian Cabot.

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countries with which England had formerly no intercourse. Some merchants of Bristol having fitted out two ships for the southern regions of America, committed the conduct of them to Sebastian Cabot, who had quitted the service of Spain. He visited the coasts of Brasil, and touched at the islands of Hispaniola and Puerto Rico; and though this voyage seems not to have been beneficial to the adventurers, it extended the sphere of English navigation, and added to the national stock of nautical science *. Though disappointed in their expectations of profit in this first essay, the merchants were not discouraged. They sent, successively, several vessels from different ports towards the same quarter, and seem to have carried on an interloping trade in the Portuguese settlements with success †. Nor was it only towards the west, that the activity of the English was directed. Other

* Hakluyt, iii. 498.

† Ibid. iii. 700.

merchants began to extend their commercial views to the east; and by establishing an intercourse with several islands in the Archipelago, and with some of the towns on the coast of Syria, they found a new market for woollen cloths, (the only manufacture which the nation had begun to cultivate,) and supplied their countrymen with various productions of the east, formerly unknown, or received from the Venetians at an exorbitant price *.

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BUT the discovery of a shorter passage to the East Indies, by the north-west, was still the favourite project of the nation, which beheld, with envy, the vast wealth that flowed into Portugal, from its commerce with those regions. The scheme was accordingly twice resumed under the long administration of Henry VIII. ; first, with some slender aid from the king, and then by private merchants. Both voyages

Unsuccessful attempts to discover a north-west passage to the Indies.

1527 and
1536.

* Hakluyt, ii. 96, &c.

BOOK were disastrous and unsuccessful. In the
 { **IX.** former, one of the ships was lost. In the
 latter, the stock of provisions was so ill-
 proportioned to the number of the crew,
 that although they were but six months at
 sea, many perished with hunger, and the
 survivors were constrained to support life
 by feeding on the bodies of their dead
 companions*.

Sir Hugh
 Willough-
 by sails in
 search of
 a north-
 east pas-
 sage.

THE vigour of the commercial spirit did
 not relax in the reign of Edward VI. The
 great fishery on the banks of Newfoundland
 became an object of attention; and from
 some regulations for the encouragement of
 that branch of trade, it seems to have
 been prosecuted with activity and suc-
 cess†. But the prospect of opening a
 communication with China and the Spice
 Islands, by some other route than round the
 Cape of Good Hope, still continued to al-
 lure the English, more than any scheme

* Hakluyt, i. 213, &c. iii. 129, 130.

† Ibid. iii. 131.

of adventure. Cabot, whose opinion was deservedly of high authority in whatever related to naval enterprize, warmly urged the English to make another attempt to discover this passage. As it had been thrice searched for in vain, by steering towards the north-west, he proposed that a trial should now be made by the north-east; and supported this advice by such plausible reasons and conjectures, as excited sanguine expectations of success. Several noblemen and persons of rank, together with some principal merchants, having associated for this purpose, were incorporated, by a charter from the king, under the title of The Company of Merchant Adventurers for the Discovery of Regions, Dominions, Islands, and Places unknown. Cabot, who was appointed governor of this company, soon fitted out two ships and a bark, furnished with instructions in his own hand, which discover the great extent both of his naval skill and mercantile sagacity.

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IX.

1553.

BOOK

IX.

May 10.

SIR Hugh Willoughby, who was entrusted with the command, stood directly northwards along the coast of Norway, and doubled the North Cape. But in that tempestuous ocean, his small squadron was separated in a violent storm. Willoughby's ship and the bark took refuge in an obscure harbour in a desert part of Russian Lapland, where he and all his companions were frozen to death. Richard Chancelour, the captain of the other vessel, was more fortunate; he entered the White Sea, and wintered in safety at Archangel. Though no vessel of any foreign nation had ever visited that quarter of the globe before, the inhabitants received their new visitors with an hospitality which would have done honour to a more polished people. The English learned there, that this was a province of a vast empire, subject to the Great Duke or Czar of Muscovy, who resided in a great city twelve hundred miles from Archangel. Chancelour, with a spirit becoming

Willoughby perishes. One of his ships winters at Archangel.

coming an officer employed in an expedition for discovery, did not hesitate a moment about the part which he ought to take, and set out for that distant capital.

On his arrival in Moscow, he was admitted to audience, and delivered a letter which the captain of each ship had received from Edward VI. for the sovereign of whatever country they should discover, to John Vasilowitz, who at that time filled the Russian throne. John, though he ruled over his subjects with the cruelty and caprice of a barbarous despot, was not destitute of political sagacity. He instantly perceived the happy consequences that might flow from opening an intercourse between his dominions and the western nations of Europe ; and, delighted with the fortunate event to which he was indebted for this unexpected benefit, he treated Chancelour with great respect ; and, by a letter to the king of England, invited his subjects to trade in the Russian dominions,

BOOK
IX.

The captain visits
Moscow.

Feb.
1554.

BOOK with ample promises of protection and
IX. favour *.

Trade
opened
with
Russia.

CHANCELOUR, on his return, found Mary seated on the English throne. The success of this voyage, the discovery of a new course of navigation, the establishment of commerce with a vast empire, the name of which was then hardly known in the west, and the hope of arriving, in this direction, at those regions which had been so long the object of desire, excited a wonderful ardour to prosecute the design with greater vigour. Mary, implicitly guided by her husband in every act of administration, was not unwilling to turn the commercial activity of her subjects towards a quarter, where it could not excite the jealousy of Spain, by encroaching on its possessions in the New World. She wrote to John Vasilowitz in the most respectful

* Hakluyt, i. 226, &c.

terms,

terms, courting his friendship. She confirmed the charter of Edward VI., empowered Chancelour, and two agents appointed by the Company, to negotiate with the Czar in her name; and according to the spirit of that age, she granted an exclusive right of trade with Russia to the Corporation of Merchant Adventurers*. In virtue of this, they not only established an active and gainful commerce with Russia, but, in hopes of reaching China, they pushed their discoveries eastwards to the coast of Nova Zembla, the Straits of Waigatz, and towards the mouth of the great river Oby. But in those frozen seas, which Nature seems not to have destined for navigation, they were exposed to innumerable disasters, and met with successive disappointments.

NOR were their attempts to open a communication with India made only in

BOOK
IX.
Communication with India by land.

* Hakluyt, i. 258, &c.

BOOK IX. this channel. They appointed some of their factors to accompany the Russian caravans, which travelled into Persia by the way of Astracan and the Caspian Sea, instructing them to penetrate as far as possible towards the east, and to endeavour, not only to establish a trade with those countries, but to acquire every information that might afford any light towards the discovery of a passage to China by the north-east *. Notwithstanding a variety of dangers to which they were exposed in travelling through so many provinces, inhabited by fierce and licentious nations, some of these factors reached Bokara, in the province of Chorasán; and though prevented from advancing farther by the civil wars which desolated the country, they returned to Europe with some hopes of extending the commerce of the Company into Persia, and with much intelligence concerning the state of those remote regions of the east †.

* Hakluyt. i. 301.

† Ibid. i. 310, &c.

THE successful progress of the Merchant **BOOK**
Adventurers in discovery, roused the emu- **IX.**
lation of their countrymen, and turned their Expedition to the
activity into new channels. A commercial coast of
intercourse, hitherto unattempted by the Africa.
English, having been opened with the coast
of Barbary, the specimens which that af-
forded of the valuable productions of
Africa, invited some enterprising navi-
gators to visit the more remote provinces of
that quarter of the globe. They sailed
along its western shore, traded in different
ports on both sides of the Line, and after
acquiring considerable knowledge of those
countries, returned with a cargo of gold-
dust, ivory, and other rich commodities,
little known at that time in England. This
commerce with Africa seems to have been
pursued with vigour, and was at that time
no less innocent than lucrative; for as the
English had then no demand for slaves, they
carried it on for many years, without vio-
lating the rights of humanity. Thus far
did the English advance during a period

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IX.

which may be considered as the infant state of their navigation and commerce; and feeble as its steps at that time may appear to us, we trace them with an interesting curiosity, and look back with satisfaction to the early essays of that spirit which we now behold in the full maturity of its strength. Even in those first efforts of the English, an intelligent observer will discern presages of their future improvement. As soon as the activity of the nation was put in motion, it took various directions, and exerted itself in each with that steady, persevering industry, which is the soul and guide of commerce. Neither discouraged by the hardships and dangers to which they were exposed in those northern seas which they first attempted to explore, nor afraid of venturing into the sultry climates of the torrid zone, the English, during the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Mary, opened some of the most considerable sources of their commercial opulence, and gave a beginning to their trade with
Turkey,

Turkey, with Africa, with Russia, and with Newfoundland. BOOK IX.

By the progress which England had already made in navigation and commerce, it was now prepared for advancing farther; and on the accession of Elizabeth to the throne, a period commenced, extremely auspicious to this spirit which was rising in the nation. The domestic tranquillity of the kingdom, maintained, almost without interruption, during the course of a long and prosperous reign; the peace with foreign nations, that subsisted more than twenty years after Elizabeth was seated on the throne; the Queen's attentive economy, which exempted her subjects from the burden of taxes oppressive to trade; the popularity of her administration; were all favourable to commercial enterprise, and called it forth into vigorous exertion. The discerning eye of Elizabeth having early perceived that the security of a kingdom, environed by the sea, depended on its

Reign of Elizabeth
auspicious
to disco-
very.

BOOK IX. its naval force, she began her government
with adding to the number and strength of the royal navy; which, during a factious minority, and a reign intent on no object but that of suppressing heresy, had been neglected, and suffered to decay. She filled her arsenals with naval stores; she built several ships of great force, according to the ideas of that age, and encouraged her subjects to imitate her example, that they might no longer depend on foreigners from whom the English had hitherto purchased all vessels of any considerable burden*. By those efforts, the skill of the English artificers was improved, the number of sailors increased, and the attention of the public turned to the navy, as the most important national object. Instead of abandoning any of the new channels of commerce which had been opened in the three preceding reigns, the English frequented them with greater assiduity, and

* Camd. Annales. p. 70. edit. 1615; fol.

the patronage of their sovereign added vigour to all their efforts. In order to secure to them the continuance of their exclusive trade with Russia, Elizabeth cultivated the connection with John Vasilowitz, which had been formed by her predecessor, and, by successive embassies, gained his confidence so thoroughly, that the English enjoyed that lucrative privilege during his long reign. She encouraged the Company of Merchant Adventurers, whose monopoly of the Russian trade was confirmed by act of parliament *, to resume their design of penetrating into Persia by land. Their second attempt, conducted with greater prudence, or undertaken at a more favourable juncture than the first, was more successful. Their agents arrived in the Persian court, and obtained such protection and immunities from the Shah, that for a course of years they carried on a gainful commerce in his kingdom †; and by fre-

BOOK
IX.

1562.

* Hakluyt, i. 369.

† Ibid. i. 344, &c.

quenting

BOOK
IX.

quanting the various provinces of Persia, became so well acquainted with the vast riches of the east, as strengthened their design of opening a more direct intercourse with those fertile regions by sea.

Frobisher makes three attempts to discover the north-west passage.

BUT as every effort to accomplish this by the north-east had proved abortive, a scheme was formed, under the patronage of the Earl of Warwick, the head of the enterprising family of Dudley, to make a new attempt, by holding an opposite course by the north-west. The conduct of this enterprise was committed to Martin Frobisher, an officer of experience and reputation. In three successive voyages he explored the inhospitable coast of Labrador, and that of Greenland, (to which Elizabeth gave the name of *Meta Incognita*,) without discovering any probable appearance of that passage to India for which he sought. This new disappointment was sensibly felt, and might have damped the spirit of naval enterprise among the English, if it had not resumed

1576,
1577,
and 1578.

refumed fresh vigour, amidst the general exultation of the nation, upon the successful expedition of Francis Drake. That bold navigator, emulous of the glory which Magellan had acquired by sailing round the globe, formed a scheme of attempting a voyage, which all Europe had admired for sixty years, without venturing to follow the Portuguese discoverer in his adventurous course. Drake undertook this with a feeble squadron, in which the largest vessel did not exceed a hundred tons, and he accomplished it, with no less credit to himself, than honour to his country. Even in this voyage, conducted with other views, Drake seems not to have been inattentive to the favourite object of his countrymen, the discovery of a new route to India. Before he quitted the Pacific Ocean, in order to stretch towards the Phillippine islands, he ranged along the coast of California, as high as the latitude of forty-two degrees north, in hopes of discovering, on that side, the communication between the two seas, which

BOOK
IX.Sir Francis Drake
sails round
the world.

BOOK
IX.

had so often been searched for in vain on the other. But this was the only unsuccessful attempt of Drake. The excessive cold of the climate, intolerable to men who had long been accustomed to tropical heat, obliged him to stop short in his progress towards the north; and whether or not there be any passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean in that quarter, is a point still unascertained *.

Enthusiasm of
discovery.

FROM this period, the English seem to have confided in their own abilities and courage, as equal to any naval enterprize. They had now visited every region to which navigation extended in that age, and had rivalled the nation of highest repute for naval skill in its most splendid exploit. But notwithstanding the knowledge which they had acquired of the different quarters of the globe, they had not hitherto attempted any settlement out of their own

* Hakluyt, iii. 440. Camd. Annal. 301, &c.

country.

country. Their merchants had not yet acquired such a degree, either of wealth or of political influence, as were requisite towards carrying a scheme of colonization into execution. Persons of noble birth were destitute of the ideas and information which might have disposed them to patronize such a design. The growing power of Spain, however, and the ascendant over the other nations of Europe to which it had attained under Charles V. and his son, naturally turned the attention of mankind towards the importance of those settlements in the New World, to which they were so much indebted for that pre-eminence. The intercourse between Spain and England, during the reign of Philip and Mary; the resort of the Spanish nobility to the English court, while Philip resided there; the study of the Spanish language, which became fashionable; and the translation of several histories of America into English, diffused gradually through the nation a more distinct knowledge of the policy of Spain in planting

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IX.

planting its colonies, and of the advantages which it derived from them. When hostilities commenced between Elizabeth and Philip, the prospect of annoying Spain by sea opened a new career to the enterprising spirit of the English nobility. Almost every eminent leader of the age aimed at distinguishing himself by naval exploits. That service, and the ideas connected with it, the discovery of unknown countries, the establishment of distant colonies, and the enriching of commerce by new commodities, became familiar to persons of rank.

First project of a colony in North America.

IN consequence of all those concurring causes, the English began seriously to form plans of settling colonies in those parts of America, which hitherto they had only visited. The projectors and patrons of these plans were mostly persons of rank and influence. Among them, Sir Humphry Gilbert, of Compton in Devonshire, ought to be mentioned with the distinction due to the conductor of the first English colony

colony to America. He had early ren- BOOK
IX.
 dered himself conspicuous by his military
 services both in France and Ireland; and
 having afterwards turned his attention to
 naval affairs, he published a discourse con-
 cerning the probability of a north-west
 passage, which discovered no inconsiderable
 portion both of learning and ingenuity,
 mingled with the enthusiasm, the credu-
 lity, and sanguine expectations which in-
 cite men to new and hazardous under-
 takings*. With those talents, he was
 deemed a proper person to be employed
 in establishing a new colony, and easily
 obtained from the Queen letters patent,
 vesting in him sufficient powers for this
 purpose. June 11.
1578.

As this is the first charter to a colony,
 granted by the Crown of England, the ar-
 ticles in it merit particular attention, as they
 unfold the ideas of that age, with respect to
 Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth.

* Hakluyt, iii. 11.

the

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the nature of such settlements. Elizabeth authorizes him to discover and take possession of all remote and barbarous lands, unoccupied by any Christian prince or people. She vests in him, his heirs and assigns for ever, the full right of property in the soil of those countries whereof he shall take possession. She permits such of her subjects, as were willing to accompany Gilbert in his voyage, to go and settle in the countries which he shall plant. She empowers him, his heirs and assigns, to dispose of whatever portion of those lands he shall judge meet to persons settled there, in fee-simple, according to the laws of England. She ordains, that all the lands granted to Gilbert shall hold of the Crown of England by homage, on payment of the fifth part of the gold or silver ore found there. She confers upon him, his heirs and assigns, the complete jurisdictions and royalties, as well marine as other, within the said lands and seas thereunto adjoining; and as their common safety and interest

terest would render good government necessary in their new settlements, she gave Gilbert, his heirs and assigns, full power to convict, punish, pardon, govern, and rule, by their good discretion and policy, as well in causes capital or criminal as civil, both marine and other, all persons who shall from time to time settle within the said countries, according to such statutes, laws, and ordinances as shall be by him, his heirs and assigns, devised and established for their better government. She declared, that all who settled there should have and enjoy all the privileges of free denizens and natives of England, any law, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. And finally, she prohibited all persons from attempting to settle within two hundred leagues of any place which Sir Humphry Gilbert, or his associates, shall have occupied, during the space of six years*.

* Hakluyt, iii. 135.

BOOK
IX.

First ex-
pedition
fails.

WITH those extraordinary powers, suited to the high notions of authority and prerogative prevalent in England during the sixteenth century, but very repugnant to more recent ideas with respect to the rights of free men, who voluntarily unite to form a colony, Gilbert began to collect associates, and to prepare for embarkation. His own character, and the zealous efforts of his half-brother, Walter Raleigh, who, even in his early youth, displayed those splendid talents, and that undaunted spirit, which create admiration and confidence, soon procured him a sufficient number of followers. But his success was not suited either to the sanguine hopes of his countrymen, or to the expence of his preparations. Two expeditions, both of which he conducted in person, ended disastrously. In the last, he himself perished, without having effected his intended settlement on the continent of America, or performing any thing more worthy of notice, than the empty formality of taking possession

1580.

possession of the island of Newfoundland, in the name of his sovereign. The dissensions among his officers; the licentious and ungovernable spirit of some of his crew; his total ignorance of the countries which he purposed to occupy; his misfortune in approaching the continent too far towards the north, where the inhospitable coast of Cape Breton did not invite them to settle; the shipwreck of his largest vessel; and above all, the scanty provision which the funds of a private man could make of what was requisite for establishing a new colony, were the true causes to which the failure of the enterprise must be imputed, not to any deficiency of abilities or resolution in its leader*.

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IX.

BUT the miscarriage of a scheme, in which Gilbert had wasted his fortune, did not discourage Raleigh. He adopted all his brother's ideas; and applying to the

The plan resumed by Raleigh.

* Hakluyt, iii. 143, &c.

BOOK
IX.

1584.
March 26.

Queen, in whose favour he stood high at that time, he procured a patent, with jurisdiction and prerogatives as ample as had been granted unto Gilbert *. Raleigh, no less eager to execute than to undertake the

April 27. scheme, instantly dispatched two small vessels, under the command of Amadas and Barlow, two officers of trust, to visit the countries which he intended to settle, and to acquire some previous knowledge of their coasts, their soil, and productions.

Discovery
of Virginia.

In order to avoid Gilbert's error, in holding too far north, they took their course by the Canaries and the West India islands, and approached the North American continent by the Gulph of Florida. Unfortunately their chief researches were made in that part of the country now known by the name of North Carolina, the province in America most destitute of commodious harbours. They touched first at an island, which they call Wokocon (probably Oca-

* Hakluyt, iii. 243.

koke),

koke), situated on the inlet into Pamlico Sound, and then at Raonoke, near the mouth of Albemarle Sound. In both, they had some intercourse with the natives, whom they found to be savages, with all the characteristic qualities of uncivilized life, bravery, aversion to labour, hospitality, a propensity to admire, and a willingness to exchange their rude productions for English commodities, especially for iron, or any of the useful metals of which they were destitute. After spending a few weeks in this traffic, and in visiting some parts of the adjacent continent, Amadas and Barlow returned to England Sept. 15. with two of the natives, and gave such splendid descriptions of the beauty of the country, the fertility of the soil, and the mildness of the climate, that Elizabeth, delighted with the idea of occupying a territory, superior, so far, to the barren regions towards the north hitherto visited by her subjects, bestowed on it the name of Virginia; as a memorial that this happy

BOOK discovery had been made under a virgin
IX.
Queen*.

Colony
established
in Virgi-
nia by Sir
Richard
Green-
ville,

THEIR report encouraged Raleigh to hasten his preparations for taking possession of such an inviting property. He fitted out a squadron of seven small ships, under the command of Sir Richard Greenville, a man of honourable birth, and of courage so undaunted as to be conspicuous even in that gallant age. But the spirit of that predatory war which the English carried on against Spain, mingled with this scheme of settlement; and on this account, as well as from unacquaintance with a more direct and shorter course to North America, Greenville sailed by the West India islands. He spent some time in cruising among these, and in taking prizes; so that it was towards the close of June before he arrived on the coast of North America. He touched at both the islands where Amadas and Barlow had landed, and made

* Hakluyt, iii. 246.

some

some excursions into different parts of the continent round Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds. But as, unfortunately, he did not advance far enough towards the north, to discover the noble Bay of Chesapeake, he established the colony which he left on the island of Roanoke, an incommo-
 BOOK IX. }
 August 25.
 dious station, without any safe harbour, and almost uninhabited*.

THIS colony consisted only of one hundred and eighty persons, under the command of Captain Lane, assisted by some men of note, the most distinguished of whom was Hariot, an eminent mathematician. Their chief employment, during a residence of nine months, was to obtain a more extensive knowledge of the country; and their researches were carried on with greater spirit, and reached farther than could have been expected from a colony so feeble, and in a station so disadvantageous.

In danger of perishing by famine; returns to England.

* Hakluyt, iii. 251.

But

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But from the same impatience of indigent adventurers to acquire sudden wealth, which gave a wrong direction to the industry of the Spaniards in their settlements, the greater part of the English seem to have considered nothing as worthy of attention but mines of gold and silver. These they sought for, wherever they came; these they enquired after with unwearied eagerness. The savages soon discovered the favourite objects which allured them, and artfully amused them with so many tales concerning pearl fisheries, and rich mines of various metals, that Lane and his companions wasted their time and activity in the chimerical pursuit of these, instead of labouring to raise provisions for their own subsistence. On discovering the deceit of the Indians, they were so much exasperated, that from expostulations and reproaches, they proceeded to open hostility. The supplies of provisions which they had been accustomed to receive from the natives were of course withdrawn.

Through their own negligence, no other BOOK
IX.
precaution had been taken for their support. Raleigh, having engaged in a scheme too expensive for his narrow funds, had not been able to send them that recruit of stores with which Greenville had promised to furnish them early in the spring. The colony, reduced to the utmost distress, and on the point of perishing with famine, was preparing to disperse into different districts of the country in quest of food, when Sir Francis Drake appeared with his fleet, returning from a successful expedition against the Spaniards in the West Indies. A scheme which he formed, of furnishing Lane and his associates with such supplies as might enable them to remain with comfort in their station, was disappointed by a sudden storm, in which a small vessel that he destined for their service was dashed to pieces; and as he could not supply them with another, at their joint request, as they were worn out with fatigue and
famine,

June 1.

BOOK famine, he carried them home to Eng-
 IX. land *.

June 19.

Know-
 ledge of
 the coun-
 try ac-
 quired in
 this expe-
 dition.

SUCH was the inauspicious beginning of the English settlements in the New World; and after exciting high expectations, this first attempt produced no effect but that of affording a more complete knowledge of the country; as it enabled Hariot, a man of science and observation, to describe its soil, climate, productions, and the manners of its inhabitants, with a degree of accuracy which merits no inconsiderable praise, when compared with the childish and marvellous tales published by several of the early visitants of the New World. There is another consequence of this abortive colony important enough to entitle it to a place in history. Lane and his associates, by their constant intercourse with the Indians, had acquired a relish for their fa-

* Hakluyt, iii. 255. Camd. Annal. 387.

vourite enjoyment of smoking tobacco; to the use of which, the credulity of that people not only ascribed a thousand imaginary virtues, but their superstition considered the plant itself as a gracious gift of the gods, for the solace of human kind, and the most acceptable offering which man can present to heaven *. They brought with them a specimen of this new commodity to England, and taught their countrymen the method of using it; which Raleigh, and some young men of fashion, fondly adopted. From imitation of them, from love of novelty, and from the favourable opinion of its salutary qualities entertained by several physicians, the practice spread among the English. The Spaniards and Portuguese had, previous to this, introduced it in other parts of Europe. This habit of taking tobacco gradually extended from the extremities of the north to those of the south, and in one form or other seems to be equally

BOOK
IX.

Use of tobacco introduced in England.

* Hariot ap. Hakluyt, iii. 271. De Bry. America, Pars i.

grateful

BOOK
IX.

grateful to the inhabitants of every climate ; and by a singular caprice of the human species, no less inexplicable than unexampled, (so bewitching is the acquired taste for a weed of no manifest utility, and at first not only unpleasant, but nauseous,) that it has become almost as universal as the demands of those appetites originally implanted in our nature. Smoking was the first mode of taking tobacco in England ; and we learn from the comic writers towards the close of the sixteenth century and the beginning of the seventeenth, that this was deemed one of the accomplishments of a man of fashion and spirit.

A FEW days after Drake departed from Roanoke, a small bark, dispatched by Raleigh with a supply of stores for the colony, landed at the place where the English had settled ; but on finding it deserted by their countrymen, they returned to England. The bark was hardly gone, when Sir Richard Greenville appeared with three ships.

ships. After searching in vain for the colony which he had planted, without being able to learn what had befallen it, he left fifteen of his crew to keep possession of the island. This handful of men was soon overpowered and cut in pieces by the savages*.

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IX.

THOUGH all Raleigh's efforts to establish a colony in Virginia had hitherto proved abortive, and had been defeated by a succession of disasters and disappointments, neither his hopes nor resources were exhausted. Early in the following year, he fitted out three ships, under the command of Captain John White, who carried thither a colony more numerous than that which had been settled under Lane. On their arrival in Virginia, after viewing the face of the country covered with one continued forest, which to them appeared an uninhabited wild, as it was occupied only

Raleigh's
second at-
tempt to
settle a
colony in
Virginia.

1587.

* Hakluyt, iii. 265. 283.

by

BOOK by a few scattered tribes of savages, they
IX. discovered that they were destitute of many
things which they deemed essentially necessary towards their subsistence in such an uncomfortable situation; and, with one voice, requested White, their commander, to return to England, as the person among them most likely to solicit, with efficacy, the supply on which depended the existence of the colony. White landed in his native country at a most unfavourable season for the negotiation which he had undertaken. He found the nation in universal alarm at the formidable preparations of Philip II. to invade England, and collecting all its force to oppose the fleet to which he had arrogantly given the name of the Invincible Armada. Raleigh, Greenville, and all the most zealous patrons of the new settlement, were called to act a distinguished part in the operations of a year equally interesting and glorious to England. Amidst danger so imminent, and during a contest for the honour of their sovereign

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sovereign and the independence of their country, it was impossible to attend to a less important and remote object. The unfortunate colony in Roanoke received no supply, and perished miserably by famine, or by the unrelenting cruelty of those barbarians by whom they were surrounded.

BOOK
IX.

Colony
perishes
by fa-
mine

DURING the remainder of Elizabeth's reign, the scheme of establishing a colony in Virginia was not resumed. Raleigh, with a most aspiring mind and extraordinary talents, enlightened by knowledge no less uncommon, had the spirit and the defects of a projector. Allured by new objects, and always giving the preference to such as were most splendid and arduous, he was apt to engage in undertakings so vast and so various, as to be far beyond his power of accomplishing. He was now intent on peopling and improving a large district of country in Ireland, of which he had obtained a grant from the Queen.

Raleigh
abandons
the de-
sign of
settling a
colony in
Virginia.

BOOK
IX.

He was a deep adventurer in the scheme of fitting out a powerful armament against Spain, in order to establish Don Antonio on the throne of Portugal. He had begun to form his favourite, but visionary plan, of penetrating into the province of Guiana, where he fondly dreamed of taking possession of inexhaustible wealth, flowing from the richest mines in the New World. Amidst this multiplicity of projects, of such promising appearance, and recommended by novelty, he naturally became cold towards his ancient and hitherto unprofitable scheme of settling a colony in Virginia, and was easily induced to assign his right of property in that country, which he had never visited, together with all the privileges contained in his patent, to Sir Thomas Smith, and a company of merchants in London. This company, satisfied with a paltry traffic carried on by a few small barks, made no attempt to take possession of the country. Thus, after a period of a hundred and six years from the time that

March,
1596.

that Cabot discovered North America, in BOOK IX.
 the name of Henry VII., and of twenty
 years from the time that Raleigh planted
 the first colony, there was not a single En-
 glishman settled there at the demise of
 Queen Elizabeth, in the year one thousand
 six hundred and three.

I HAVE already explained the causes of
 this, during the period previous to the ac-
 cession of Elizabeth. Other causes pro-
 duced the same effect under her admini-
 stration. Though for one half of her reign
 England was engaged in no foreign war,
 and commerce enjoyed that perfect security
 which is friendly to its progress; though
 the glory of her latter years gave the
 highest tone of elevation and vigour to the
 national spirit; the Queen herself, from
 her extreme parsimony, and her aversion
 to demand extraordinary supplies of her
 subjects, was more apt to restrain than to
 second the ardent genius of her people. Se-
 veral of the most splendid enterprizes in

Circum-
 stances in
 Eliza-
 beth's
 reign un-
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 able to
 coloniza-
 tion.

BOOK
IX.

her reign were concerted and executed by private adventurers. All the schemes for colonization were carried on by the funds of individuals, without any public aid. Even the felicity of her government was adverse to the establishment of remote colonies. So powerful is the attraction of our native soil, and such our fortunate partiality to the laws and manners of our own country, that men seldom choose to abandon it, unless they be driven away by oppression, or allured by vast prospects of sudden wealth. But the provinces of America in which the English attempted to settle did not, like those occupied by Spain, invite them thither by any appearance of silver or golden mines. All their hopes of gain were distant; and they saw that nothing could be earned but by persevering exertions of industry. The maxims of Elizabeth's administration were, in their general tenor, so popular, as did not force her subjects to emigrate, in order to escape from the heavy or vexatious har of power.

It

It seems to have been with difficulty that these slender bands of planters were collected, on which the writers of that age bestow the name of the first and second Virginian colonies. The fulness of time for English colonization was not yet arrived.

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IX.

BUT the succession of the Scottish line to the crown of England hastened its approach. James was hardly seated on the throne before he discovered his pacific intentions, and he soon terminated the long war which had been carried on between Spain and England, by an amicable treaty. From that period, uninterrupted tranquillity continued during his reign. Many persons of high rank, and of ardent ambition, to whom the war with Spain had afforded constant employment, and presented alluring prospects, not only of fame but of wealth, soon became so impatient of languishing at home without occupation or object, that their invention was on the

1603.
Reign of
James fa-
vourable
to the
establi-
ment of
colonies.

BOOK
IX.

stretch to find some exercise for their activity and talents. To both these, North America seemed to open a new field, and schemes of carrying colonies thither became more general and more popular.

Direct
course
from
England
to North
America
first at-
tempted
by Gos-
nold.

A VOYAGE, undertaken by Bartholemew Gosnold in the last year of the Queen, facilitated, as well as encouraged, the execution of these schemes. He sailed from Falmouth in a small bark, with thirty-two men. Instead of following former navigators in their unnecessary circuit by the West India isles and the Gulf of Florida, Gosnold steered due west, as nearly as the winds would permit, and was the first English commander who reached America by this shorter and more direct course. That part of the continent which he first descried was a promontory in the province now called Massachusetts Bay, to which he gave the name of Cape Cod. Holding along the coast, as it stretched towards the south-west, he touched at two islands, one
of

of which he called Martha's Vineyard, ^{BOOK IX.} the other Elizabeth's Island; and visited the adjoining continent, and traded with its inhabitants. He and his companions were so much delighted every where with the inviting aspect of the country, that notwithstanding the smallness of their number, a part of them consented to remain there. But when they had leisure to reflect upon the fate of former settlers in America, they retracted a resolution formed in the first warmth of their admiration; and Gosnold returned to England in less than four months from the time of his departure *.

THIS voyage, however inconsiderable it may appear, had important effects. The English now discovered the aspect of the American continent to be extremely inviting far to the north of the place where they had formerly attempted to settle. The coast of a vast country, stretching through the most desirable climates, lay before

Consequences
of Gosnold's
voyage.

* Purchas, iv. p. 1647.

BOOK them. The richness of its virgin soil promised a certain recompence to their industry. In its interior provinces unexpected sources of wealth might open, and unknown objects of commerce might be found. Its distance from England was diminished almost a third part, by the new course which Gosnold had pointed out. Plans for establishing colonies began to be formed in different parts of the kingdom; and before these were ripe for execution, one small vessel was sent out by the merchants of Bristol, another by the Earl of Southampton and Lord Arundel of Wardour, in order to learn whether Gosnold's account of the country was to be considered as a just representation of its state, or as the exaggerated description of a fond discoverer. Both returned with a full confirmation of his veracity, and with the addition of so many new circumstances in favour of the country, acquired by a more extensive view of it, as greatly increased the desire of planting it.

THE

THE most active and efficacious promoter of this was Richard Hakluyt, prebendary of Westminster, to whom England is more indebted for its American possessions than to any man of that age. Formed under a kinsman of the same name, eminent for naval and commercial knowledge, he imbibed a similar taste, and applied early to the study of geography and navigation. These favourite sciences engrossed his attention, and to diffuse a relish for them was the great object of his life. In order to excite his countrymen to naval enterprize, by flattering their national vanity, he published, in the year one thousand five hundred and eighty-nine, his valuable collection of voyages and discoveries made by Englishmen. In order to supply them with what information might be derived from the experience of the most successful foreign navigators, he translated some of the best accounts of the progress of the Spaniards and Portuguese in their voyages both to the East and West Indies,

into

BOOK
IX.

Hakluyt improves the commercial and naval skill of that age.

BOOK
IX.

into the English tongue. He was consulted with respect to many of the attempts towards discovery or colonization during the latter part of Elizabeth's reign. He corresponded with the officers who conducted them, directed their researches to proper objects, and published the history of their exploits. By the zealous endeavours of a person, equally respected by men of rank and men of business, many of both orders formed an association to establish colonies in America, and petitioned the king for the sanction of his authority to warrant the execution of their plans.

James
divides
the coast
of North
America
into two
parts;

JAMES, who prided himself on his profound skill in the science of government, and who had turned his attention to consider the advantages which might be derived from colonies, at a time when he patronised a scheme for planting them in some of the ruder provinces of his ancient kingdom, with a view of introducing
industry

industry and civilization there *, was now BOOK IX.
 no less fond of directing the active genius of his English subjects towards occupations not repugnant to his own pacific maxims, and listened with a favourable ear to their application. But as the extent as well as value of the American continent began now to be better known, a grant of the whole of such a vast region to any one body of men, however respectable, appeared to him an act of impolitic and profuse liberality. For this reason, he divided that portion of North America, which stretches from the thirty-fourth to the forty-fifth degree of latitude, into two districts, nearly equal; the one called the first or south colony of Virginia, the other, the second or north colony. He authorized Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Summers, Richard Hakluyt, and their associates, mostly resident in London, to settle any part of the former which they should

1606.
April 10.

* Hist. of Scotland, ii. 239.

choose,

BOOK
IX.

and
grants
charters
to two
compa-
nies.

choofe, and vested in them a right of property to the land extending along the coast fifty miles on each fide of the place of their firft habitation, and reaching into the interior country a hundred miles. The latter diftrict he allotted, as the place of fettlement, to fundry knights, gentlemen, and merchants of Bristol, Plymouth, and other parts in the weft of England, with a fimilar grant of territory. Neither the monarch who iffued this charter, nor his fubjects who received it, had any conception that they were proceeding to lay the foundation of mighty and opulent ftates. What James granted was nothing more than a fimple charter of corporation to a trading company, empowering the members of it to have a common feal, and to act as a body politic. But as the object for which they associated was new, the plan eftablifhed for the adminiftration of their affairs was uncommon. Inftead of the power ufually granted to corporations, of electing officers and framing by-laws for the

the conduct of their own operations, the supreme government of the colonies to be settled was vested in a council resident in England, to be named by the king, according to such laws and ordinances as should be given under his sign manual; and the subordinate jurisdiction was committed to a council resident in America, which was likewise to be nominated by the king, and to act conformably to his instructions. To this important clause, which regulated the form of their constitution, was added, the concession of several immunities, to encourage persons to settle in the intended colonies. Some of these were the same which had been granted to Gilbert and Raleigh; such as the securing to the emigrants and their descendants all the rights of denizens, in the same manner as if they had remained or had been born in England; and granting them the privilege of holding their lands in America by the freest and least burdensome tenure. Others were more favourable than those granted by Elizabeth.

BOOK
IX.Tenor of
these
charters.

BOOK IX. Elizabeth. He permitted whatever was necessary for the sustenance or commerce of the new colonies to be exported from England, during the space of seven years, without paying any duty; and as a farther incitement to industry, he granted them liberty of trade with other nations, and appropriated the duty to be levied on foreign commodities, for twenty-one years, as a fund for the benefit of the colony*.

Defects
of these
char-
ters.

IN this singular charter, the contents of which have been little attended to by the historians of America, some articles are as unfavourable to the rights of the colonists, as others are to the interest of the parent state. By placing the legislative and executive powers in a council nominated by the crown, and guided by its instructions, every person settling in America seems to be bereaved of the noblest privilege of a

* Stith. Hist. of Virginia, p. 35. Append. p. 1. Purchas, v. 1683.

free man; by the unlimited permission of **BOOK**
trade with foreigners, the parent state is **IX.**
deprived of that exclusive commerce which
has been deemed the chief advantage result-
ing from the establishment of colonies.
But in the infancy of colonization, and
without the guidance of observation or
experience, the ideas of men with respect
to the mode of forming new settlements,
were not fully unfolded, or properly ar-
ranged. At a period when they could not
foresee the future grandeur and importance
of the communities which they were about
to call into existence, they were ill qualified
to concert the best plan for governing them.
Besides, the English of that age, accus-
tomed to the high prerogative and arbi-
trary rule of their monarchs, were not ani-
mated with such liberal sentiments, either
concerning their own personal or political
rights, as have become familiar in the more
mature and improved state of their consti-
tution.

WITHOUT

**BOOK
IX.**Colonies
of Vir-
ginia and
New
England.

WITHOUT hesitation or reluctance the proprietors of both colonies prepared to execute their respective plans; and under the authority of a charter, which would now be rejected with disdain, as a violent invasion of the sacred and inalienable rights of liberty, the first permanent settlements of the English in America were established. From this period, the progress of the two provinces of Virginia and New England form a regular and connected story. The former in the south, and the latter in the north, may be considered as the original and parent colonies; in imitation of which, and under whose shelter, all the others have been successively planted and reared.

Advantages of tracing the history of these colonies in their infant state.

THE first attempts to occupy Virginia and New England were made by very feeble bodies of emigrants. As these settled, under great disadvantages, among tribes of savages, and in an uncultivated desert; as they attained gradually, after long struggles and many disasters, to that maturity of

of strength, and order of policy, which ^{BOOK} entitles them to be considered as respect- ^{IX.}
able states, the history of their persever-
ing efforts merits particular attention. It
will exhibit a spectacle no less striking than
instructive, and presents an opportunity,
which rarely occurs, of contemplating a so-
ciety in the first moment of its political
existence, and of observing how its spirit
forms in its infant state, how its principles
begin to unfold as it advances, and how
those characteristic qualities, which dis-
tinguish its maturer age, are successively ac-
quired. The account of the establishment
of the other English colonies, undertaken
at periods when the importance of such
possessions was better understood, and
effected by more direct and vigorous exer-
tions of the parent state, is less interesting.
I shall therefore relate the history of the
two original colonies in detail. With re-
spect to the subsequent settlements, some
more general observations concerning the
time, the motives, and circumstances of
F. their

BOOK their establishment, will be sufficient. I
IX. begin with the history of Virginia, the
most ancient and most valuable of the
British colonies in North America.

Newport
sails for
Virginia.
Dec. 19.

THOUGH many persons of distinction became proprietors in the company which undertook to plant a colony in Virginia, its funds seem not to have been considerable, and its first effort was certainly extremely feeble. A small vessel of a hundred tons, and two barks, under the command of Captain Newport, sailed with a hundred and five men, destined to remain in the country. Some of these were of respectable families, particularly a brother of the Earl of Northumberland, and several officers who had served with reputation in the reign of Elizabeth. Newport, I know not for what reason, followed the ancient course by the West Indies, and did not reach the coast of North America for four months. But he approached it with better fortune than any former navigator; for
having

1607.
April 26.

having been driven, by the violence of a storm, to the northward of Roanoke, the place of his destination, the first land he discovered was a promontory which he called Cape Henry, the southern boundary of the Bay of Chesapeak. The English stood directly into that spacious inlet, which seemed to invite them to enter; and as they advanced, contemplated, with a mixture of delight and admiration, that grand reservoir, into which are poured the waters of all the vast rivers, which not only diffuse fertility through that district of America, but open the interior parts of the country to navigation, and render a commercial intercourse more extensive and commodious than in any other region of the globe. Newport, keeping along the southern shore, sailed up a river, which the natives called Powhatan, and to which he gave the name of James-River. After viewing its banks, during a run of above forty miles from its mouth, they all concluded that a country, where safe and con-

BOOK
IX.

Discovers
the Che-
sapeak.

Sails up
James-
River.

**BOOK
IX.**

venient harbours seemed to be numerous, would be a more suitable station for a trading colony, than the shoally and dangerous coast to the south, on which their countrymen had formerly settled. Here then they determined to abide; and having chosen a proper spot for their residence, they gave this infant settlement the name of James-Town, which it still retains; and though it has never become either populous or opulent, it can boast of being the most ancient habitation of the English in the New World. But however well-chosen the situation might be, the members of the colony were far from availing themselves of its advantages. Violent animosities had broke out among some of their leaders, during their voyage to Virginia. These did not subside on their arrival there. The first deed of the council, which assumed the government in virtue of a commission brought from England under the seal of the company, and opened on the day after they landed, was an act of injustice. Captain Smith,

Founds
James-
Town.

Bad ad-
ministra-
tion.

e numerous,
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and danger-
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assumed
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eal of the
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Captain
Smith,

HISTORY OF AMERICA.

69

Smith, who had been appointed a member **BOOK**
of the council, was excluded from his seat **IX.**
at the board, by the mean jealousy of his
colleagues, and not only reduced to the
condition of a private man, but of one sus-
pected and watched by his superiors. This
diminution of his influence, and restraint
on his activity, was an essential injury to
the colony, which at that juncture stood
in need of the aid of both. For soon after
they began to settle, the English were in-
volved in a war with the natives, partly
by their own indiscretion, and partly by
the suspicion and ferocity of those barba-
rians. And although the Indians, scattered
over the countries adjacent to James-River,
were divided into independent tribes, so
extremely feeble that hardly one of them
could muster above two hundred warriors*,
they teased and annoyed an infant colony
by their incessant hostilities. To this was
added a calamity still more dreadful; the

Colony
annoyed
by the
Indians.

* Purchas, vol. iv. 1692. Smith's Travels, p. 23.

BOOK stock of provisions left for their subsistence,
IX.

June 15. on the departure of their ships for England,
 was so scanty, and of such bad quality,

Suffers
 from scar-
 city, and
 the un-
 healthi-
 ness of the
 climate.

that a scarcity, approaching almost to ab-
 solute famine, soon followed. Such poor

unwholesome fare brought on diseases, the

violence of which was so much increased
 by the sultry heat of the climate, and the

moisture of a country covered with wood,

that before the beginning of September,

one half of their number died, and most

of the survivors were sickly and dejected.

In such trying extremities, the compara-

tive powers of every individual are disco-

vered and called forth, and each naturally

takes th station, and assumes that as-

cendant, to which he is entitled by his ta-

lents and force of mind. Every eye was

now turned towards Smith, and all wil-

lingly devolved on him that authority, of

which they had formerly deprived him.

His undaunted temper, deeply tinctured

with the wild romantic spirit characteristic

of military adventures in that age, was pe-

culiarly

Smith
 called to
 the com-
 mand, re-
 stores the
 prosperity
 of the co-
 lony.

cularly suited to such a situation. The **BOOK IX.** vigour of his constitution continued, fortunately, still unimpaired by disease, and his mind was never appalled by danger. He instantly adopted the only plan that could save them from destruction. He began by surrounding James-Town with such rude fortifications as were a sufficient defence against the assaults of savages. He then marched, at the head of a small detachment, in quest of their enemies. Some tribes he gained by caresses and presents, and procured from them a supply of provisions. Others he attacked with open force; and defeating them on every occasion, whatever their superiority in numbers might be, compelled them to impart to him some portion of their winter stores. As the recompence of all his toils and dangers, he saw abundance and contentment re-established in the colony, and hoped that he should be able to maintain them in that happy state, until the arrival of ships from England in the spring; but in one

BOOK
IX.

He is
taken
prisoner
by the
Indians.

of his excursions he was surprised by a numerous body of Indians, and in making his escape from them, after a gallant defence, he sunk to the neck in a swamp, and was obliged to surrender. Though he knew well what a dreadful fate awaits the prisoners of savages, his presence of mind did not forsake him. He shewed those who had taken him captive a mariner's compass, and amused them with so many wonderful accounts of its virtues, as filled them with astonishment and veneration, which began to operate very powerfully in his favour. They led him, however, in triumph through various parts of the country, and conducted him at last to Powhatan, the most considerable Sachim in that part of Virginia. There the doom of death being pronounced, he was led to the place of execution, and his head already bowed down to receive the fatal blow, when that fond attachment of the American women to their European invaders, the beneficial effects of which the Spaniards

Spaniards often experienced, interposed in BOOK IX. his behalf. The favourite daughter of Powhatan rushed in between him and the executioner, and, by her intreaties and tears, prevailed on her father to spare his life. The beneficence of his deliverer, whom the early English writers dignify with the title of the Princess Pocahuntas, did not terminate here; she soon after procured his liberty, and sent him from time to time seasonable presents of provisions*.

SMITH, on his return to James-Town, On his return, he finds the colony almost ruined. found the colony reduced to thirty-eight persons, who, in despair, were preparing to abandon a country which did not seem destined to be the habitation of Englishmen. He employed careffes, threats, and even violence, in order to prevent them from executing this fatal resolution. With difficulty he prevailed on them to defer it

* Smith's Travels, p. 44, &c. Purchas, iv. 1704. Stith. p. 45, &c.

BOOK
IX.

Season-
able suc-
cours
from Eng-
land.

Colonists
deceived
by the ap-
pearances
of gold.

so long, that the succour anxiously expected from England arrived. Plenty was instantly restored; a hundred new planters were added to their number, and an ample stock of whatever was requisite for clearing and sowing the ground was delivered to them. But an unlucky incident turned their attention from that species of industry which alone could render their situation comfortable. In a small stream of water that issued from a bank of sand near James-Town, a sediment of some shining mineral substance, which had some resemblance of gold, was discovered. At a time when the precious metals were conceived to be the peculiar and only valuable productions of the New World, when every mountain was supposed to contain a treasure, and every rivulet was searched for its golden sands, this appearance was fondly considered as an infallible indication of a mine. Every hand was eager to dig; large quantities of this glittering dust were amassed. From some assay of its nature,
made

made by an artist as unskilful as his companions were credulous, it was pronounced to be extremely rich. "There was now" (says Smith) "no talk, no hope, no work, but dig gold, wash gold, refine gold *." With this imaginary wealth the first vessel returning to England was loaded, while the culture of the land, and every useful occupation, were totally neglected.

THE effects of this fatal delusion were soon felt. Notwithstanding all the provident activity of Smith, in procuring corn from the natives by traffic or by force, the colony began to suffer as much as formerly from scarcity of food, and was wasted by the same distempers. In hopes of obtaining some relief, Smith proposed, as they had not hitherto extended their researches beyond the countries contiguous to James-River, to open an intercourse with the more remote tribes, and to examine into the state of culture and population among

BOOK
IX.

Smith
under-
takes a
survey
of the
country

* Smith's Travels, p. 53.

them.

BOOK
IX.

them. The execution of this arduous design he undertook himself, in a small open boat, with a feeble crew, and a very scanty stock of provisions. He began his survey at Cape Charles, and in two different excursions, which continued above four months, he advanced as far as the river Susquehannah, which flows into the bottom of the Bay. He visited all the countries both on the east and west shores; he entered most of the considerable creeks; he sailed up many of the great rivers as far as their falls. He traded with some tribes; he fought with others; he observed the nature of the territory which they occupied, their mode of subsistence, the peculiarities in their manners; and left among all a wonderful admiration either of the beneficence or valour of the English. After sailing above three thousand miles in a paltry vessel, ill fitted for such an extensive navigation, during which the hardships to which he was exposed, as well as the patience with which he endured, and the fortitude with

with which he surmounted them, equal ^{BOOK} whatever is related of the celebrated Span- ^{IX.} ish discoverers in their most daring enterprizes, he returned to James-Town; he brought with him an account of that large portion of the American continent now comprehended in the two provinces of Virginia and Maryland *, so full and exact, that after the progress of information and research for a century and a half, his map exhibits no inaccurate view of both countries, and is the original upon which all subsequent delineations and descriptions have been formed †.

BUT whatever pleasing prospect of future benefit might open upon this complete discovery of a country formed by nature to be the seat of an exclusive commerce, it afforded but little relief for their present wants. The colony still depended for subsistence chiefly on supplies from the natives; as, after all the efforts of their own

* Smith's Travels, p. 65, &c.

† Stith. p. 83.

BOOK
IX.

industry, hardly thirty acres of ground were yet cleared so as to be capable of culture *. By Smith's attention, however, the stores of the English were so regularly filled, that for some time they felt no considerable distress; and at this juncture a change was made in the constitution of the company, which seemed to promise an increase of their security and happiness. That supreme direction of all the company's operations, which the king by his charter had reserved to himself, discouraged persons of rank or property from becoming members of a society so dependant on the arbitrary will of the crown. Upon a representation of this to James, he granted them a new charter, with more ample privileges. He enlarged the boundaries of the colony; he rendered the powers of the company, as a corporation, more explicit and complete; he abolished the jurisdiction of the council resident in Virgi-

1609.
May 23.
A new
charter
granted..

* Stith. p. 97.

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granted
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owers of
more ex-
he jurif-
n Virgi-

nia; he vested the government entirely in **BOOK IX.**
a council residing in London; he granted
to the proprietors of the company the
right of electing the persons who were to
compose this council, by a majority of
voices; he authorized this council to esta-
blish such laws, orders, and forms of go-
vernment and magistracy, for the colony
and plantation, as they in their discretion
should think to be fittest for the good of
the adventurers and inhabitants there; he
empowered them to nominate a governor
to have the administration of affairs in
the colony, and to carry their orders into
execution *. In consequence of these con-
cessions, the company having acquired the
power of regulating all its own transactions,
the number of proprietors increased, and
among them we find the most respectable
names in the nation.

THE first deed of the new council was
to appoint Lord Delaware governor and

Lord
Dela-
ware ap-
pointed
governor.

* Stith. Append. 8.

BOOK
IX.

captain-general of their colony in Virginia. To a person of his rank, those high-sounding titles could be no allurement; and by his thorough acquaintance with the progress and state of the settlement, he knew enough of the labour and difficulty with which an infant colony is reared, to expect any thing but anxiety and care in discharging the duties of that delicate office. But from zeal to promote an establishment which he expected to prove so highly beneficial to his country, he was willing to relinquish all the comforts of an honourable station, to undertake a long voyage to settle in an uncultivated region destitute of every accommodation to which he had been accustomed, and where he foresaw that toil and trouble and danger awaited him. But as he could not immediately leave England, the council dispatched Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Summers, the former of whom had been appointed lieutenant-general and the latter admiral, with nine ships and

Gates
and Sum-
mers ap-
pointed to
command
till the
arrival of
Lord De-
laware.

and five hundred planters. They carried with them commissions, by which they were empowered to supersede the jurisdiction of the former council, to proclaim Lord Delaware governor, and, until he should arrive, to take the administration of affairs into their own hands. A violent hurricane separated the vessel in which Gates and Summers had embarked from the rest of the fleet, and stranded it on the coast of Bermudas. The other ships arrived safely at James-Town. But the fate of their commanders was unknown. Their commission for new-modelling the government, and all other public papers, were supposed to be lost, together with them. The present form of government, however, was held to be abolished. No legal warrant could be produced for establishing any other. Smith was not in a condition at this juncture to assert his own rights, or to act with his wonted vigour. By an accidental explosion of gunpowder, he had been so miserably scorched and mangled,

BOOK
IX.
Their ship
stranded
on the
coast of
Bermu-
das.

August
11.

BOOK that he was incapable of moving, and
IX. under the necessity of committing himself
 to the guidance of his friends, who carried him aboard one of the ships returning to England, in hopes that he might recover by more skilful treatment than he could meet with in Virginia *.

Anarchy
 in the colony.

AFTER his departure, every thing tended fast to the wildest anarchy. Faction and discontent had often risen so high among the old settlers, that they could hardly be kept within bounds. The spirit of the new-comers was too ungovernable to bear any restraint. Several among them of better rank were such dissipated hopeless young men, as their friends were glad to send out in quest of whatever fortune might betide them in a foreign land. Of the lower order, many were so profligate or desperate, that their country was happy to throw them out as nuisances in society.

* Purchas, iv. 1734, &c. Smith's Travels, p. 89. Stith, p. 102, &c.

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ociety.

els, p. 89.

Such

HISTORY OF AMERICA.

83

Such persons were little capable of the re-
gular subordination, the strict œconomy,
and persevering industry, which their situa-
tion required. The Indians observing their
misconduct, and that every precaution for
sustenance or safety was neglected, not only
withheld the supplies of provisions which
they were accustomed to furnish, but ha-
rassed them with continual hostilities. All
their subsistence was derived from the stores
which they had brought from England:
these were soon consumed; then the do-
mestic animals sent out to breed in the
country were devoured; and by this in-
considerate waste, they were reduced to
such extremity of famine, as not only to
eat the most nauseous and unwholesome
roots and berries, but to feed on the bodies
of the Indians whom they slew, and even
on those of their companions who sunk
under the oppression of such complicated
distress. In less than six months, of five
hundred persons whom Smith left in Vir-
ginia, only sixty remained; and these so

BOOK
IX.The co-
lony re-
duced by
famine.



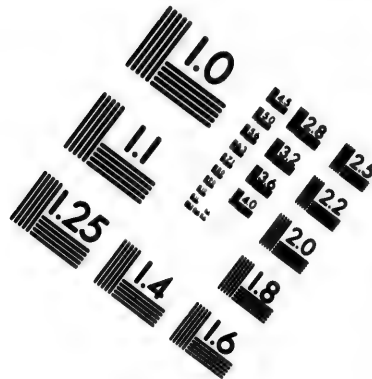
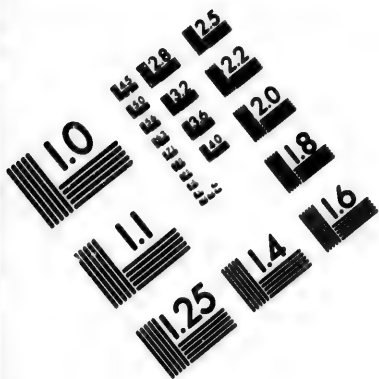
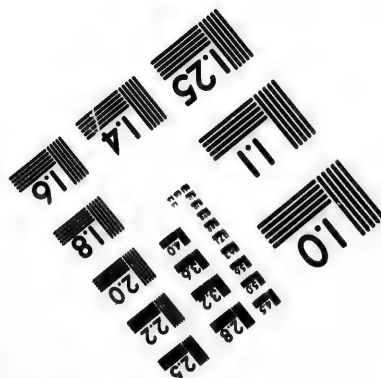
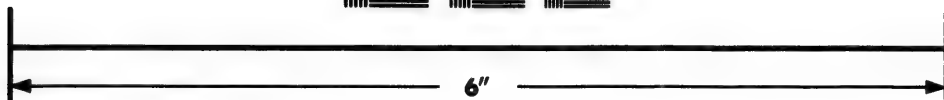
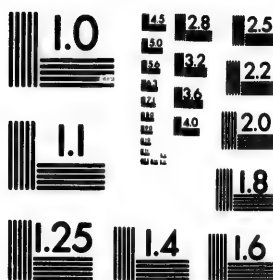


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BOOK
IX.

feeble and dejected, that they could not have survived for ten days, if succour had not arrived from a quarter whence they did not expect it*.

Gates and
Summers
arrive
from Ber-
mudas.

WHEN Gates and Summers were thrown ashore on Bermudas, fortunately not a single person on board their ship perished. A considerable part of their provisions and stores too was saved, and in that delightful spot, Nature, with spontaneous bounty, presented to them such a variety of her productions, that a hundred and fifty people subsisted in affluence for ten months on an uninhabited island. Impatient, however, to escape from a place where they were cut off from all intercourse with mankind, they set about building two barks with such tools and materials as they had, and by amazing efforts of perseverance and ingenuity they finished them. In these they embarked, and steered directly towards Virginia, in hopes of finding an ample conso-

* Stith, p. 116. Purchas, iv. 1748.

lation for all their toils and dangers in the embraces of their companions, and amidst the comforts of a flourishing colony. After a more prosperous navigation than they could have expected in their ill-constructed vessels, they landed at James-Town. But instead of that joyful interview for which they fondly looked, a spectacle presented itself which struck them with horror. They beheld the miserable remainder of their countrymen emaciated with famine and sickness, sunk in despair, and in their figure and looks rather resembling spectres than human beings. As Gates and Summers, in full confidence of finding plenty of provisions in Virginia, had brought with them no larger stock than was deemed necessary for their own support during the voyage, their inability to afford relief to their countrymen, added to the anguish with which they viewed this unexpected scene of distress. Nothing now remained but instantly to abandon a country, where it was impossible to subsist any longer; and

May 23.

Find the colony in the utmost distress.

BOOK
IX.

though all that could be found in the stores of the colony, when added to what remained of the stock brought from Bermudas, did not amount to more than was sufficient to support them for sixteen days, at the most scanty allowance, they set sail, in hopes of being able to reach Newfoundland, where they expected to be relieved by their countrymen employed at that season in the fishery there*.

Are about
to return
to Eng-
land,
when
Lord De-
laware ar-
rives.

BUT it was not the will of Heaven that all the labour of the English, in planting this colony, as well as all their hopes of benefit from its future posterity, should be for ever lost. Before Gates, and the melancholy companions of his voyage, had reached the mouth of James-River, they were met by Lord Delaware, with three ships, that brought a large recruit of provi-

* A minute and curious account of the shipwreck of Gates and Summers, and of their adventures in Bermudas, was composed by Strachy, a gentleman who accompanied them, and was published by Purchas, iv. 1734.

sions, a considerable number of new settlers, and every thing requisite for defence or cultivation. By persuasion and authority he prevailed on them to return to James-Town, where they found their fort, their magazines, and houses entire, which Sir Thomas Gates, by some happy chance, had preserved from being set on fire at the time of their departure. A society so feeble and disordered in its frame required a tender and skilful hand to cherish it, and restore its vigour. This it found in Lord Delaware: he searched into the causes of their misfortunes, as far as he could discover them, amidst the violence of their mutual accusations; but instead of exerting his power in punishing crimes that were past, he employed his prudence in healing their dissensions, and in guarding against a repetition of the same fatal errors. By unwearied assiduity, by the respect due to an amiable and beneficent character, by knowing how to mingle severity with indulgence, and when to assume the dignity

Wise administration of Lord Delaware.

BOOK
IX.

of his office, as well as when to display the gentleness natural to his own temper, he gradually reconciled men corrupted by anarchy to subordination and discipline, he turned the attention of the idle and profligate to industry, and taught the Indians again to reverence and dread the English name. Under such an administration, the colony began once more to assume a promising appearance; when unhappily for it, a complication of diseases brought on by the climate obliged Lord Delaware to quit the country*; the government of which he committed to Mr. Percy.

1611.
March 28.
His health
obliges
him to re-
turn to
England.

May 10.
Sir
Thomas
Dale ap-
pointed
governor.

Martial
law esta-
blished.

HE was soon superseded by the arrival of Sir Thomas Dale; in whom the company had vested more absolute authority than in any of his predecessors, empowering him to rule by martial law; a short code of which, founded on the practice of the armies in the Low Countries, the most rigid military school at that time in Europe,

* Stith, p. 117. Purchas, iv. 1764.

they

they sent out with him. This system of BOOK
IX. government is so violent and arbitrary, that even the Spaniards themselves had not ventured to introduce it into their settlements; for among them, as soon as a plantation began, and the arts of peace succeeded to the operations of war, the jurisdiction of the civil magistrate was uniformly established. But however unconstitutional or oppressive this may appear, it was adopted by the advice of Sir Francis Bacon, the most enlightened philosopher, and one of the most eminent lawyers of the age*. The company, well acquainted with the inefficacy of every method which they had hitherto employed for restraining the unruly mutinous spirits which they had to govern, eagerly adopted a plan that had the sanction of such high authority to recommend it. Happily for the colony, Sir Thomas Dale, who was entrusted with this dangerous power, exercised it with prudence and moderation. By the vigour which the sum-

* Bacon, Essay on Plantations, p. 3.

BOOK many mode of military punishment gave to
IX. his administration, he introduced into the
 colony more perfect order than had ever
 been established there; and at the same
 time he tempered its vigour with so much
 discretion, that no alarm seems to have been
 given by this formidable innovation *.

1612.
 March 12.
 New charter issued
 to the
 colony:
 new privileges
 conferred.

THE regular form which the colony now
 began to assume, induced the King to issue
 a new charter for the encouragement of the
 adventurers, by which he not only confirmed
 all their former privileges, and prolonged
 the term of exemption from payment of
 duties on the commodities exported by
 them, but granted them more extensive
 property, as well as more ample jurisdiction.
 All the islands lying within three hundred
 leagues of the coast were annexed to the
 Province of Virginia. In consequence of
 this, the company took possession of
 Bermudas, and the other small isles
 discovered by Gates and Summers;

* Stith, p. 122.

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HISTORY OF AMERICA.

91

and at the same time prepared to send out **BOOK**
a considerable reinforcement to the colony **IX.**
at James-Town. The expence of those ex-
traordinary efforts was defrayed by the pro-
fits of a lottery, which amounted nearly to
thirty thousand pounds. This expedient,
they were authorized to employ by their
new charter *; and it is remarkable, as
the first instance, in the English history, of
any public countenance given to this per-
nicious seducing mode of levying money.
But the House of Commons, which to-
wards the close of this reign began to ob-
serve every measure of government with
jealous attention, having remonstrated
against the institution as unconstitutional
and impolitic, James recalled the licence
under the sanction of which it had been
established †.

By the severe discipline of martial law, the activity of the colonists was forced into a proper direction, and exerted itself in

Cultiva-
tion of the
lands pro-
moted.

* Stith, p. 191. Appendix, 23, &c.

† Chalmers' Annals, i. 32.

useful

BOOK useful industry. This, aided by a fertile
IX.

foil and favourable climate, soon enabled them to raise such a large stock of provisions, that they were no longer obliged to trust for subsistence to the precarious supplies which they obtained or extorted from the Indians. In proportion as the English became more independent, the natives courted their friendship upon more equal terms. The happy effects of this were quickly felt. Sir Thomas Dale concluded a treaty with one of their most powerful and warlike tribes, situated on the River Chickahominy, in which they consented to acknowledge themselves subjects of the King of Great Britain, to assume henceforth the name of Englishmen, to send a body of their warriors to the assistance of the English, as often as they took the field against any enemy, and to deposit annually a stipulated quantity of Indian corn in the store-houses of the colony *. An event, which the early histo-

Treaty
with the
natives.

* Hamer Solida Narratio, ap. de Bry. Pars x. p. 33. Stith, p. 130.

rians of Virginia relate with peculiar satisfaction, prepared the way for this union.

Pocahuntas, the favourite daughter of the great Chief Powhatan, to whose intercession Captain Smith was indebted for his life, persevered in her partial attachment to the English; and as she frequently visited their settlements, where she was always received with respectful hospitality, her admiration of their arts and manners continued to increase. During this intercourse, her beauty, which is represented as far superior to that of her countrywomen, made such impression on the heart of Mr. Rolfe, a young man of rank in the colony, that he warmly solicited her to accept of him as a husband. Where manners are simple, courtship is not tedious. Neither artifice prevents, nor ceremony forbids the heart from declaring its sentiments. Pocahuntas readily gave her consent; Dale encouraged the alliance, and Powhatan did not disapprove it. The marriage was celebrated with extraordinary

Rolfe
marries
the
daughter
of an In-
dian
Chief.

BOOK
IX.

pomp; and from that period a friendly correspondence subsisted between the colony and all the tribes subject to Powhatan, or that stood in awe of his power. Rolfe and his Princess, (for by that name the writers of the last age always distinguish her,) set out for England, where she was received by James and his Queen with the respect suited to her birth. Being carefully instructed in the principles of the Christian faith, she was publicly baptized, but died a few years after, on her return to America, leaving one son; from whom are sprung some of the most respectable families in Virginia, who boast of their descent from the race of the ancient rulers of their country*. But notwithstanding the visible good effects of that alliance, none of Rolfe's countrymen seem to have imitated the example which he set them, of intermarrying with the natives. Of all

* Hamer Solida Narratio, ap. de Bry, Pars x. p. 23. Stith, p. 129. 146. Smith's Travels, p. 113. 121.

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 alliance,
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 Of all

Part x.
 p. 113.

the

the Europeans who have settled in Ame- **BOOK**
 rica, the English have availed themselves **IX.**
 least of this obvious method of concilia-
 ting the affection of its original inhabit-
 ants; and, either from the shyness con-
 spicuous in their national character, or
 from the want of that pliant facility of
 manners which accommodates itself to every
 situation, they have been more averse than
 the French and Portuguese, or even the
 Spaniards, from incorporating with the na-
 tive Americans. The Indians, courting such
 an union, offered their daughters in mar-
 riage to their new guests: and when they
 did not accept of the proffered alliance,
 they naturally imputed it to pride and to
 their contempt of them as an inferior or-
 der of beings*.

DURING the interval of tranquillity pro-
 cured by the alliance with Powhatan, an
 important change was made in the state
 of the colony. Hitherto no right of pri-

Land in
 Virginia
 first be-
 comes
 property.

* Beverley's Hist. of Virg. p. 25.

vate

BOOK
IX.

vate property in land had been established. The fields that were cleared had been cultivated by the joint labour of the colonists; their product was carried to the common store-houses, and distributed weekly to every family, according to its number and exigencies. A society, destitute of the first advantage resulting from social union, was not formed to prosper. Industry, when not excited by the idea of property in what was acquired by its own efforts, made no vigorous exertion. The head had no inducement to contrive, nor the hand to labour. The idle and improvident trusted entirely to what was issued from the common store; the assiduity even of the sober and attentive relaxed, when they perceived that others were to reap the fruit of their toil; and it was computed, that the united industry of the colony did not accomplish as much work in a week as might have been performed in a day, if each individual had laboured on his own account. In order to remedy this, Sir Thomas Dale divided

Advantages.

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 divided

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divided a considerable portion of the land into small lots, and granted one of these to each individual in full property. From the moment that industry had the certain prospect of a recompence, it advanced with rapid progress. The articles of primary necessity were cultivated with so much attention as secured the means of subsistence; and such schemes of improvement were formed as prepared the way for the introduction of opulence into the colony *.

BOOK
IX.

THE industrious spirit, which began to rise among the planters, was soon directed towards a new object; and they applied to it for some time with such inconsiderate ardour as was productive of fatal consequences. The culture of tobacco, which has since become the staple of Virginia and the source of its prosperity, was introduced about this time into the colony. As the taste for that weed continued to increase in England, notwith-

Culture of
tobacco
intro-
duced.

1616.

* Smith's Travels, p. 114. Stith, p. 131.

BOOK
IX.

Bad consequences
arising
from it.

standing the zealous declamations of James against it, the tobacco imported from Virginia came to a ready market; and though it was so much inferior in quality or in estimation to that raised by the Spaniards in the West Indian islands, that a pound of the latter sold for eighteen shillings, and of the former for no more than three shillings, it yielded a considerable profit. Allured by the prospect of such a certain and quick return, every other species of industry was neglected. The land which ought to have been reserved for raising provisions, and even the streets of James-Town, were planted with tobacco. Various regulations were framed to restrain this ill-directed activity. But from eagerness for present gain, the planters disregarded every admonition. The means of subsistence became so scanty as forced them to renew their demands upon the Indians, who, seeing no end of those exactions, their antipathy to the English name revived with additional rancour, and they began to form

schemes of vengeance, with the secrecy and silence peculiar to Americans *. BOOK IX.

MEANWHILE the colony, notwithstanding this error in its operations, and the cloud that was gathering over its head, continued to wear an aspect of prosperity. Its numbers increased by successive migrations; the quantity of tobacco exported became every year more considerable, and several of the planters were not only in an easy situation, but advancing fast to opulence †; and by two events, which happened nearly at the same time, both population and industry were greatly promoted. As few women had hitherto ventured to encounter the hardships which were unavoidable in an unknown and uncultivated country, most of the colonists, constrained to live single, considered themselves as no more than sojourners in a land to which they were not attached by the

* Stith, p. 149. 147. 164. 168. Smith, p. 140.
Purchas, iv. 1787. † Smith, p. 139.

BOOK
IX.

Young
women
migrate
from Eng-
land to
Virginia.

tender ties of a family and children. In order to induce them to settle there, the company took advantage of the apparent tranquillity in the country, to send out a considerable number of young women, of humble birth, indeed, but of unexceptionable character, and encouraged the planters, by premiums and immunities, to marry them*. These new companions were received with such fondness, and many of them so comfortably established, as invited others to follow their example, and by degrees thoughtless adventurers, assuming the sentiments of virtuous citizens and of provident fathers of families, became solicitous about the prosperity of a country, which they now considered as their own. As the colonists began to form more extensive plans of industry, they were unexpectedly furnished with means of executing them with greater facility. A Dutch ship from the Coast of Guinea, having sailed up

* Smith, p. 166. 197.

children. In
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James-River, sold a part of her cargo of **BOOK IX.**
negroes to the planters *; and as that hardy
race was found more capable of endur-
ing fatigue under a sultry climate than
Europeans, their number has been in-
creased by continual importation; their aid
seems now to be essential to the existence
of the colony, and the greater part of field
labour in Virginia is performed by servile
hands.

Negroes
first intro-
duced.

BUT as the condition of the colony im-
proved, the spirit of its members became
more independent. To Englishmen the
summary and severe decisions of martial law,
however tempered by the mildness of their
governors, appeared intolerably oppressive;
and they longed to recover the privileges
to which they had been accustomed under
the liberal form of government in their
native country. In compliance with this
spirit, Sir George Yeardley, in the year
1619, called the first general assembly that

1619.
June.
First ge-
neral as-
sembly

* Beverley, p. 37.

BOOK was ever held in Virginia ; and the num-
IX. bers of the people were now so increased,
of repre- and their settlements so dispersed, that
sentatives, eleven corporations appeared by their re-
representatives in this convention, where they
were permitted to assume legislative power,
and to exercise the noblest function of free
men. The laws enacted in it seem neither
to have been many, nor of great import-
ance ; but the meeting was highly accept-
able to the people, as they now beheld
among themselves an image of the English
constitution, which they revered as the
most perfect model of free government. In
order to render this resemblance more com-
plete, and the rights of the planters more
certain, the company issued a charter or or-
dinance, which gave a legal and permanent
form to the government of the colony.
The supreme legislative authority in Virgi-
nia, in imitation of that in Great Britain,
was divided and lodged partly in the
governor, who held the place of the
sovereign ; partly in a council of state
named

July 24.
New con-
stitution
given to
the co-
lony.

named by the company, which possessed some of the distinctions, and exercised some of the functions belonging to the peerage; partly in a general council or assembly composed of the representatives of the people, in which were vested powers and privileges similar to those of the House of Commons. In both these councils all questions were to be determined by the majority of voices, and a negative was reserved to the governor; but no law or ordinance, though approved of by all the three members of the legislature, was to be of force, until it was ratified in England by a general court of the company, and returned under its seal *. Thus the constitution of the colony was fixed, and the members of it are henceforth to be considered, not merely as servants of a commercial company, dependant on the will and orders of their superior, but as free men and citizens.

* Stith, Appendix, p. 32, &c.

BOOK
IX.

Industry
increased.

Direct
trade of
the colony
with Hol-
land.

Gives of-
fence to
James.

THE natural effect of that happy change in their condition was an increase of their industry. The product of tobacco in Virginia was now equal, not only to the consumption of it in Great Britain *, but could furnish some quantity for a foreign market. The company opened a trade for it with Holland, and established warehouses in Middleburgh and Flushing. James, and his privy council, alarmed at seeing the commerce of a commodity, for which the

* It is a matter of some curiosity to trace the progress of the consumption of this unnecessary commodity. The use of tobacco seems to have been first introduced into England about the year 1586. Possibly a few sea-faring persons may have acquired a relish for it by their intercourse with the Spaniards previous to that period; but the use of it cannot be denominated a national habit sooner than the time I have mentioned. Upon an average of the seven years immediately preceding the year 1622, the whole import of tobacco into England amounted to a hundred and forty-two thousand and eighty-five pounds weight: Stith, p. 246. From this it appears, that the taste had spread with a rapidity which is remarkable. But how inconsiderable is that quantity to what is now consumed in Great Britain!

demand

demand was daily increasing, turned into a channel that tended to the diminution of the revenue, by depriving it of a considerable duty imposed on the importation of tobacco, interposed with vigour to check this innovation. Some expedient was found, by which the matter was adjusted for the present; but it is remarkable as the first instance of a difference in sentiment between the parent state and the colony, concerning their respective rights. The former concluded, that the trade of the colony should be confined to England, and all its productions be landed there. The latter claimed, not only the general privilege of Englishmen to carry their commodities to the best market, but pleaded the particular concessions in their charter, by which an unlimited freedom of commerce seemed to be granted to them*. The time for a more full discussion of this important question was not yet arrived.

* Stith, p. 200, &c.

BUT

BOOK
IX.

The colony neglects the precautions necessary for its defence against the Indians.

BUT while the colony continued to increase so fast, that settlements were scattered, not only along the banks of James and York Rivers, but began to extend to the Rapahannock, and even to the Potowmack, the English, relying on their own numbers and deceived by this appearance of prosperity, lived in full security. They neither attended to the movements of the Indians, nor suspected their machinations, and though surrounded by a people whom they might have known from experience to be both artful and vindictive, they neglected every precaution for their own safety that was requisite in such a situation. Like the peaceful inhabitants of a society completely established, they were no longer soldiers but citizens, and were so intent on what was subservient to the comfort or embellishment of civil life, that every martial exercise began to be laid aside as unnecessary. The Indians, whom they commonly employed as hunters, were furnished with fire-arms, and taught to use them with dexterity.

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terity.

terity. They were permitted to frequent the **BOOK IX.** habitations of the English at all hours, and received as innocent visitants whom there was no reason to dread. This inconsiderate security enabled the Indians to prepare for the execution of that plan of vengeance, which they meditated with all the deliberate forethought which is agreeable to their temper. Nor did they want a leader capable of conducting their schemes with address. On the death of Powhatan, in the year 1618, Opechancanough succeeded him, not only as wirowanee or chief of his own tribe, but in that extensive influence over all the Indian nations of Virginia, which induced the English writers to distinguish them by the name of Emperor. According to the Indian tradition, he was not a native of Virginia, but came from a distant country to the south-west, possibly from some province of the Mexican Empire*. But as he was conspicuous for all the qualities of highest estimation among savages,

General
massacre
of the
English
planned
by the In-
dians.

* Beverley, p. 51.

a fearless

BOOK
IX.

a fearless courage, great strength and agility of body, and crafty policy, he quickly rose to eminence and power. Soon after his elevation to the supreme command, a general massacre of the English seems to have been resolved upon; and during four years, the means of perpetrating it with the greatest facility and success were concerted with amazing secrecy. All the tribes contiguous to the English settlements were successively gained, except those on the Eastern shore, from whom, on account of their peculiar attachment to their new neighbours, every circumstance that might discover what they intended was carefully concealed. To each tribe its station was allotted, and the part it was to act prescribed. On the morning of the day consecrated to vengeance, each was at the place of rendezvous appointed, while the English were so little aware of the impending destruction, that they received with unsuspecting hospitality, several persons sent by Opechancanough, under pretext of delivering presents of venison and fruits, but

Mar. 22.

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in reality to observe their motions. Find-
ing them perfectly secure, at mid-day, the
moment that was previously fixed for this
deed of horror, the Indians rushed at once
upon them in all their different settlements,
and murdered men, women, and children,
with undistinguishing rage, and that ran-
corous cruelty with which savages treat
their enemies. In one hour, nearly a
fourth part of the whole colony was cut
off, almost without knowing by whose
hands they fell. The slaughter would have
been universal, if compassion, or a sense of
duty, had not moved a converted Indian,
to whom the secret was communicated the
night before the massacre, to reveal it to
his master in such time as to save James-
Town, and some adjacent settlements; and
if the English, in other districts, had not
run to their arms with resolution prompted
by despair, and defended themselves so
bravely as to repulse their assailants,
who, in the execution of their plan, did
not discover courage equal to the saga-
city

BOOK
IX.

Executed
on most of
the settle-
ments.

BOOK city and art with which they had concerted

IX. it*.

BUT though the blow was thus prevented from descending with its full effect, it proved very grievous to an infant colony. In some settlements not a single Englishman escaped. Many persons of prime note in the colony, and among these several members of the council, were slain. The survivors, overwhelmed with grief, astonishment, and terror, abandoned all their remote settlements, and, crowding together for safety to James-Town, did not occupy a territory of greater extent than had been planted soon after the arrival of their countrymen in Virginia. Confined within those narrow boundaries, they were less intent on schemes of industry than on thoughts of revenge. Every man took arms. A bloody war against the Indians commenced; and, bent on exterminating

Bloody
war with
the In-
dians.

* Stith, p. 208, &c. Purchas, iv. 1788, &c.

the

the whole race, neither old nor young were spared. The conduct of the Spaniards in the Southern regions of America was openly proposed as the most proper model to imitate*; and, regardless like them of those principles of faith, honour, and humanity, which regulate hostility among civilized nations and set bounds to its rage, the English deemed every thing allowable that tended to accomplish their design. They hunted the Indians like wild beasts, rather than enemies; and as the pursuit of them to their places of retreat in the woods, which covered their country, was both difficult and dangerous, they endeavoured to allure them from their inaccessible fastnesses, by offers of peace and promises of oblivion, made with such an artful appearance of sincerity as deceived their crafty leader, and induced them to return to their former settlements, and resume their usual peaceful occupations. The behaviour of the two people seemed now to be

BOOK
IX.

1623.

* Stith, p. 233.

perfectly

BOOK

IX.

perfectly reversed. The Indians, like men acquainted with the principles of integrity and good faith, on which the intercourse between nations is founded, confided in the reconciliation, and lived in absolute security without suspicion of danger; while the English, with perfidious craft, were preparing to imitate savages in their revenge and cruelty. On the approach of harvest, when they knew an hostile attack would be most formidable and fatal, they fell suddenly upon all the Indian plantations, murdered every person on whom they could lay hold, and drove the rest to the woods, where so many perished with hunger, that some of the tribes nearest to the English were totally extirpated. This atrocious deed, which the perpetrators laboured to represent as a necessary act of retaliation, was followed by some happy effects. It delivered the colony so entirely from any dread of the Indians, that its settlements began again to extend, and its industry to revive.

BUT

BUT unfortunately at this juncture the state of the company in England, in which the property of Virginia and the government of the colony settled there were vested, prevented it from seconding the efforts of the planters, by such a reinforcement of men, and such a supply of necessaries, as were requisite to replace what they had lost. The company was originally composed of many adventurers, and increased so fast by the junction of new members, allured by the prospect of gain, or the desire of promoting a scheme of public utility, that its general courts formed a numerous assembly*. The operation of every political principle and passion, that spread through the kingdom, was felt in those popular meetings, and influenced their decisions. As towards the close of James's reign more just and enlarged sentiments with respect to constitutional liberty were diffused among the people, they came to

BOOK
IX.

Company
at home
divided by
factions.

* Stith, p. 272. 276.

BUT

I

understand

BOOK understand their rights better, and to assert
IX. them with greater boldness; a distinction
 formerly little known, but now familiar in
 English policy, began to be established be-
 tween the court and country parties, and
 the leaders of each endeavoured to derive
 power and consequence from every quarter.
 Both exerted themselves with emulation, in
 order to obtain the direction of a body so
 numerous and respectable as the company
 of Virginian adventurers. In consequence
 of this, business had been conducted in
 every general court for some years, not with
 the temperate spirit of merchants deliberat-
 ing concerning their mutual interest, but
 with the animosity and violence natural to
 numerous assemblies, by which rival fac-
 tions contend for superiority*.

James in-
 stitutes an
 inquiry
 into their
 conduct.

As the king did not often assemble the
 great council of the nation in parliament,
 the general courts of the company became
 a theatre, on which popular orators dis-

* Stith, p. 229, &c. Chalmers, p. 59.

played

played their talents; the proclamations of the crown, and acts of the privy council, with respect to the commerce and police of the colony, were canvassed there with freedom, and censured with severity, ill-suited to the lofty ideas which James entertained of his own wisdom, and the extent of his prerogative. In order to check this growing spirit of discussion, the ministers employed all their address and influence to gain as many members of the company as might give them the direction of their deliberations. But so unsuccessful were they in this attempt, that every measure proposed by them was reprobated by a vast majority, and sometimes without any reason, but because they were the proposers of it. James, little favourable to the power of any popular assembly, and weary of contending with one over which he had laboured in vain to obtain an ascendant, began to entertain thoughts of dissolving the company, and of new-modelling its constitution. Pretexts, neither unplaussible, nor destitute

BOOK
IX.

destitute of some foundation, seemed to justify this measure. The slow progress of the colony, the large sums of money expended, and great number of men who had perished in attempting to plant it, the late massacre by the Indians, and every disaster that had befallen the English from their first migration to America, were imputed solely to the inability of a numerous company to conduct an enterprise so complex and arduous. The nation felt sensibly its disappointment in a scheme in which it had engaged with sanguine expectations of advantage, and wished impatiently for such an impartial scrutiny into former proceedings as might suggest more salutary measures in the future administration of the colony. The present state of its affairs, as well as the wishes of the people, seemed to call for the interposition of the crown; and James, eager to display the superiority of his royal wisdom, in correcting those errors into which the company had been betrayed by inexperience in the arts of government,

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superiority of
hose errors
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overnment,
boldly

boldly undertook the work of reformation. Without regarding the rights conveyed to the company by their charter, and without the formality of any judicial proceeding for annulling it, he, by virtue of his prerogative, issued a commission, empowering some of the judges, and other persons of note, to examine into all the transactions of the company from its first establishment, and to lay the result of their inquiries, together with their opinion concerning the most effectual means of rendering the colony more prosperous*, before the privy council. At the same time, by a strain of authority still higher, he ordered all the records and papers of the company to be seized, and two of its principal officers to be arrested. Violent and arbitrary as these acts of authority may now appear, the commissioners carried on their inquiry without any obstruction but what arose from some feeble and ineffectual remonstrances of the company. The commissioners, though they conducted their

BOOK
IX,
1623.
May 9.

* Stith, p. 288.

BOOK
IX.

scrutiny with much activity and vigour *, did not communicate any of their proceedings to the company; but their report, with respect to its operations, seems to have been very unfavourable, as the king, in consequence of it, signified to the company his intention of vesting the supreme government of the company in a governor and twelve assistants, to be resident in England, and the executive power in a council of twelve, which should reside in Virginia. The governor and assistants were to be originally appointed by the king. Future vacancies were to be supplied by the governor and his assistants, but their nomination was not to take effect until it should be ratified by the privy council. The twelve counsellors in Virginia were to be chosen by the governor and assistants; and this choice was likewise subjected to the review of the privy council. With an intention to quiet the minds of the colonists, it was declared, that private property

Oct. 8.
Company
required
to sur-
render its
charter.

* Smith's Travels, p. 165, &c.

should

vigour *,
 proceed-
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 property

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should be deemed sacred; and for the more
 effectual security of it, all grants of lands
 from the former company were to be con-
 firmed by the new one. In order to faci-
 litate the execution of this plan, the king
 required the company instantly to surrender
 its charter into his hands *.

BOOK
IX.

BUT here James and his ministers en-
 countered a spirit, of which they seem not
 to have been aware. They found the
 members of the company unwilling tamely
 to relinquish rights of franchises conveyed
 to them with such legal formality, that
 upon faith in their validity they had ex-
 pended considerable sums †; and still more
 averse to the abolition of a popular form of
 government, in which every proprietor had
 a voice, in order to subject a colony, in
 which they were deeply interested, to the
 dominion of a small junto absolutely de-
 pendent on the crown. Neither promises

Company
refuses.

* Stith, p. 293, &c.

† Chalmers, p. 67.

BOOK

IX.

Oct. 20.

nor threats could induce them to depart from these sentiments; and in a general court the king's proposal was almost unanimously rejected, and a resolution taken to defend to the utmost their chartered rights, if these should be called in question in any court of justice. James, highly offended at their presumption in daring to oppose his will, directed a writ of *quo warranto* to be issued against the company, that the validity of its charter might be tried in the Court of King's Bench; and in order to aggravate the charge by collecting additional proofs of mal-administration, he appointed some persons, in whom he could confide, to repair to Virginia to inspect the state of the colony, and inquire into the conduct of the company, and of its officers there.

Trial in the King's Bench, and dissolution of the company.

THE law-suit in the King's Bench did not hang long in suspense. It terminated, as was usual in that reign, in a decision perfectly consonant to the wishes of the monarch.

monarch. The charter was forfeited, the company was dissolved, and all the rights and privileges conferred upon it returned to the king, from whom they flowed *.

BOOK
IX.
June
1624.

SOME writers, particularly Stith, the most intelligent and best informed historian of Virginia, mention the dissolution of the company as a most disastrous event to the colony. Animated with liberal sentiments, imbibed in an age when the principles of liberty were more fully unfolded than under the reign of James, they viewed his violent and arbitrary proceedings on this occasion with such indignation, that their abhorrence of the means which he employed to accomplish his design seems to have rendered them incapable of contemplating its effects with discernment and candour. There is not perhaps any mode of governing an infant colony less friendly to its liberty, than the dominion of an ex-

Defects in
the first
constitu-
tion of the
colonies.

* Rymer, vol. xvii. p. 618, &c. Chalmers, p. 62.

BOOK
IX.

clusive corporation, possessed of all the powers which James had conferred upon the company of adventurers in Virginia, During several years the colonists can hardly be considered in any other light than as servants to the company, nourished out of its stores, bound implicitly to obey its orders, and subjected to the most rigorous of all forms of government, that of martial law. Even after the native spirit of Englishmen began to rouse under oppression, and had extorted from their superiors the right of enacting laws for the government of that community of which they were members, as no act, though approved of by all the branches of the provincial legislature, was held to be of legal force, until it was ratified by a general court in England, the company still retained the paramount authority in its own hands. Nor was the power of the company more favourable to the prosperity of the colony, than to its freedom. A numerous body of merchants, as long as its operations are
I purely

purely commercial, may carry them on with discernment and success. But the mercantile spirit seems ill-adapted to conduct an enlarged and liberal plan of civil policy, and colonies have seldom grown up to maturity and vigour under its narrow and interested regulations. To the unavoidable defects in administration which this occasioned, were added errors arising from inexperience. The English merchants of that age had not those extensive views which a general commerce opens to such as have the direction of it. When they first began to venture out of the beaten track, they groped their way with timidity and hesitation. Unacquainted with the climate and soil of America, and ignorant of the productions best suited to them, they seem to have had no settled plan of improvement, and their schemes were continually varying. Their system of government was equally fluctuating. In the course of eighteen years ten different persons presided over the province as chief governors.

No

BOOK
IX.

BOOK
IX.

No wonder that under such administration all the efforts to give vigour and stability to the colony should prove abortive, or produce only slender effects. These efforts, however, when estimated according to the ideas of that age, either with respect to commerce or to policy, were very considerable, and conducted with astonishing perseverance.

Weakness
of the co-
lony.

ABOVE an hundred and fifty thousand pounds were expended in this first attempt to plant an English colony in America* ; and more than nine thousand persons were sent out from the mother country to people this new settlement. At the dissolution of the company, the nation, in return for this waste of treasure and of people, did not receive from Virginia an annual importation of commodities exceeding twenty thousand pounds in value ; and the colony was so far from having added strength to the state by an increase of population, that,

* Smith's Travels, p. 42. 167.

in the year one thousand six hundred and twenty-four, scarcely two thousand persons survived*, a wretched remnant of the numerous emigrants who had flocked thither, with sanguine expectations of a very different fate.

BOOK
IX.

THE company, like all unprosperous societies, fell unpitied. The violent hand with which prerogative had invaded its rights was forgotten, and new prospects of success opened, under a form of government exempt from all the defects to which past disasters were imputed. The king and the nation concurred with equal ardour in resolving to encourage the colony. Soon after the final judgment in the Court of King's Bench against the company, James appointed a council of twelve persons to take the temporary direction of affairs in Virginia, that he might have leisure to frame with deliberate consideration proper

Tempo-
rary coun-
cil ap-
pointed
for the
govern-
ment of
Virginia.

Aug. 26.

* Chalmers' Annals, p. 69.

regulations

BOOK

IX.

regulations for the permanent government of the colony *. Pleased with such an opportunity of exercising his talents as a legislator, he began to turn his attention towards the subject; but death prevented him from completing his plan.

1625,
Mar. 27.
Accession
of Cha. I.
His arbitrary go-
vernment of
the co-
lony.

CHARLES I. on his accession to the throne, adopted all his father's maxims with respect to the colony in Virginia. He declared it to be a part of the empire annexed to the crown, and immediately subordinate to its jurisdiction: he conferred the title of Governor on Sir George Yardely, and appointed him, in conjunction with a council of twelve, and a secretary, to exercise supreme authority there, and enjoined them to conform in every point to such instructions as from time to time they might receive from him †. From the tenor of the king's commission, as well as from the known spirit of his policy, it

* Rymer, xvii. 618, &c. † Ibid. xviii. 72. 311.

Government
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as a legi-
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†. From
, as well
policy, it

72. 311.

is

is apparent, that he intended to vest every ^{BOOK} power of government, both legislative and ^{IX.} executive, in the governor and council, without recourse to the representatives of the people, as possessing a right to enact laws for the community, or to impose taxes upon it. Yardely and his council, who seem to have been fit instruments for carrying this system of arbitrary rule into execution, did not fail to put such a construction on the words of their commission as was most favourable to their own jurisdiction. During a great part of Charles's reign, Virginia knew no other law than the will of the sovereign. Statutes were published, and taxes imposed, without once calling the representatives of the people to authorize them by their sanction. At the same time that the colonists were bereaved of political rights, which they deemed essential to freemen and citizens, their private property was violently invaded. A proclamation was issued, by which, under ^{Grants and monopoly of tobacco.} pretexts equally absurd and frivolous, they

were

BOOK
IX.

were prohibited from selling tobacco to any person but certain commissioners appointed by the king to purchase it on his account*; and they had the cruel mortification to behold the sovereign, who should have afforded them protection, engross all the profits of their industry, by seizing the only valuable commodity which they had to vend, and retaining the monopoly of it in his own hands. While the staple of the colony in Virginia sunk in value under the oppression and restraints of a monopoly, property in land was rendered insecure by various grants of it, which Charles inconsiderately bestowed upon his favourites. These were not only of such exorbitant extent as to be unfavourable to the progress of cultivation; but from inattention, or imperfect acquaintance with the geography of the country, their boundaries were so inaccurately defined, that large tracts already occupied and planted were often included in them.

* Rymer, xviii. 19.

THE murmurs and complaints which **BOOK IX.** such a system of administration excited, were augmented by the rigour with which Sir John Harvey, who succeeded Yardely in the government of the colony*, enforced every act of power. Rapacious, unfeeling, and haughty, he added insolence to oppression, and neither regarded the sentiments, nor listened to the remonstrances of the people under his command. The colonists, far from the seat of government, and overawed by authority derived from a royal commission, submitted long to his tyranny and exactions. Their patience was at last exhausted, and in a transport of popular rage and indignation, they seized their governor, and sent him a prisoner to England, accompanied by two of their number, whom they deputed to prefer their accusations against him to the king. But this attempt to redress their own wrongs, by a proceeding so summary and violent as is hardly consistent with any idea of regu-

1627,

Colonists
seize on
Harvey
their go-
vernor,
and send
him pri-
soner to
England.

* Rymer, xviii. 980.

BOOK IX. lar government, and can be justified only in cases of such urgent necessity as rarely occur in civil society, was altogether repugnant to every notion which Charles entertained with respect to the obedience due by subjects to their sovereign. To him the conduct of the colonists appeared to be not only an usurpation of his right to judge and to punish one of his own officers, but an open and audacious act of rebellion against his authority. Without deigning to admit their deputies into his presence, or to hear one article of their charge against Harvey, the king instantly sent him back to his former station, with an ample renewal of all the powers belonging to it. But though Charles deemed this vigorous step necessary in order to assert his own authority, and to testify his displeasure with those who had presumed to offer such an insult to it, he seems to have been so sensible of the grievances under which the colonists groaned, and of the chief source from which they flowed, that soon after he not only removed

He is released by the king, and re-instated in his government.

moved a governor so justly odious to them, but named as a successor Sir William Berkeley, a person far superior to Harvey in rank and abilities, and still more distinguished by possessing all the popular virtues to which the other was a stranger *.

BOOK
IX.

UNDER his government the colony in Virginia remained, with some short intervals of interruption, almost forty years, and to his mild and prudent administration its increase and prosperity is in a great measure to be ascribed. It was indebted, however, to the king himself for such a reform of its constitution and policy, as gave a different aspect to the colony, and animated all its operations with new spirit. Though the tenor of Sir William Berkeley's commission was the same with that of his predecessor, he received instructions under the great seal, by which he was empowered to declare, that in all its concerns,

Sir W. Berkeley appointed governor. His mild and wise administration.

* Beverley's Hist. of Virg. p. 50. Chalmers' Annals, i. 118, &c.

BOOK
IX.

New pri-
vileges
granted
by
Charles.

civil as well as ecclesiastical, the colony was to be governed according to the laws of England: he was directed to issue writs for electing representatives of the people, who, in conjunction with the governor and council, were to form a general assembly, and to possess supreme legislative authority in the community; he was ordered to establish courts of justice, in which all questions, whether civil or criminal, were to be decided agreeably to the forms of judicial procedure in the mother country. It is not easy to discover what were the motives which induced a monarch tenacious in adhering to any opinion or system which he had once adopted, jealous to excess of his own rights, and adverse on every occasion to any extension of the privileges claimed by his people, to relinquish his original plan of administration in the colony, and to grant such immunities to his subjects settled there. From the historians of Virginia, no less superficial than ill-informed, no light can be derived with respect to this point.

point. It is most probable, that dread of the spirit then rising in Great Britain extorted from Charles concessions so favourable to Virginia. After an intermission of almost twelve years, the state of his affairs compelled him to have recourse to the great council of the nation. There his subjects would find a jurisdiction independent of the crown, and able to control its authority. There they hoped for legal redress of all their grievances. As the colonists in Virginia had applied for relief to a former parliament, it might be expected with certainty, that they would lay their case before the first meeting of an assembly, in which they were secure of a favourable audience. Charles knew, that if the spirit of his administration in Virginia were to be tried by the maxims of the English constitution, it must be severely reprehended. He was aware that many measures of greater moment in his government would be brought under a strict review in parliament; and

BOOK
IX.

Motives
that ap-
pear to
have in-
fluenced
the king.

BOOK
IX.

unwilling to give mal-contents the advantage of adding a charge of oppression in the remote parts of his dominions to a catalogue of domestic grievances, he artfully endeavoured to take the merit of having granted voluntarily to his people in Virginia such privileges as he foresaw would be extorted from him.

Virginia
flourishes
under the
new go-
vern-
ment.

BUT though Charles established the internal government of Virginia on a model similar to that of the English constitution, and conferred on his subjects there all the rights of freemen and citizens, he was extremely solicitous to maintain its connection with the parent state. With this view he instructed Sir William Berkeley strictly to prohibit any commerce of the colony with foreign nations; and in order more certainly to secure exclusive possession of all the advantages arising from the sale of its productions, he was required to take a bond from the master of each vessel that sailed from

from Virginia, to land his cargo in some **BOOK**
 part of the king's dominions in Europe *. **IX.**
 Even under this restraint, such is the kindly
 influence of free government on society,
 the colony advanced so rapidly in industry
 and population, that at the beginning of
 the civil war, the English settled in it ex-
 ceeded twenty thousand †.

GRATITUDE towards a monarch, from
 whose hands they had received immunities
 which they had long wished, but hardly
 expected to enjoy, the influence and ex-
 ample of a popular governor, passionately
 devoted to the interests of his master, con-
 curred in preserving inviolated loyalty
 among the colonists. Even after mo-
 narchy was abolished, after one king had
 been beheaded, and another driven into
 exile, the authority of the crown continued
 to be acknowledged and revered in Vir-
 1650.

Remains
 attached
 to the
 royal
 cause.

* Chalmers' Annals, p. 219. 232.

† Ibid. p. 125.

BOOK
IX.

ginia. Irritated at this open defiance of its power, the parliament issued an ordinance, declaring, that as the settlement in Virginia had been made at the cost and by the people of England, it ought to be subordinate to and dependant upon the English commonwealth, and subject to such laws and regulations as are or shall be made in parliament: that, instead of this dutiful submission, the colonists had disclaimed the authority of the state, and audaciously rebelled against it; that on this account they were denounced notorious traitors, and not only all vessels belonging to natives of England, but those of foreign nations, were prohibited to enter their ports, or to carry on any commerce with them.

Parliament
makes
war on
Virginia.

It was not the mode of that age to wage a war of words alone. The efforts of an high-spirited government in asserting its own dignity were prompt and vigorous. A powerful squadron, with a considerable body of land forces, was dispatched to reduce

duce the Virginians to obedience. After BOOK IX.
 compelling the colonies in Barbadoes and
 the other islands to submit to the com-
 monwealth, the squadron entered the Bay 1651.
 of Chesapeak. Berkeley, with more courage
 than prudence, took arms to oppose this
 formidable armament; but he could not
 long maintain such an unequal contest. His
 gallant resistance, however, procured fa-
 vourable terms to the people under his go-
 vernment. A general indemnity for all
 past offences was granted; they acknow-
 ledged the authority of the commonwealth,
 and were admitted to a participation of all
 the rights enjoyed by citizens*. Berkeley,
 firm to his principles of loyalty, dis-
 dained to make any stipulation for him-
 self; and choosing to pass his days far re-
 moved from the seat of a government which
 he detested, continued to reside in Virginia
 as a private man, beloved and respected by
 all over whom he had formerly presided.

Virginia
is forced
to ac-
know-
ledge the
common-
wealth.

* Thurlow's State Papers, i. 197. Chalmers' Annals, p. 122. Beverley's Hist. p. 53.

BOOK
IX.

Restrains
on the
trade of
the co-
lony.

- NOT satisfied with taking measures to subject the colonies, the commonwealth turned its attention towards the most effectual mode of retaining them in dependance on the parent state, and of securing to it the benefit of their increasing commerce. With this view the parliament framed two laws, one of which expressly prohibited all mercantile intercourse between the colonies and foreign states, and the other ordained, that no production of Asia, Africa, or America, should be imported into the dominions of the commonwealth, but in vessels belonging to English owners, or to the people of the colonies settled there, and navigated by an English commander *, and by crews of which the greater part must be Englishmen. But while the wisdom of the commonwealth prescribed the channel in which the trade of the colonies was to be carried on, it was solicitous to encourage the cultivation of the staple commodity of Virginia by an act of parliament, which gave
- 1651.
- 1652.

* Scobel's Acts, p. 132. 176.

legal force to all the injunctions of James **BOOK**
and Charles against planting tobacco in Eng- **IX.**
land *.

UNDER governors appointed by the commonwealth, or by Cromwell, when he usurped the supreme power, Virginia remained almost nine years in perfect tranquillity. During that period, many adherents to the royal party, and among these some gentlemen of good families, in order to avoid danger and oppression, to which they were exposed in England, or in hopes of repairing their ruined fortunes, resorted thither. Warmly attached to the cause for which they had fought and suffered, and animated with all the passions natural to men recently engaged in a fierce and long protracted civil war, they, by their intercourse with the colonists, confirmed them in principles of loyalty, and added to their impatience and indignation under the restraints imposed on their com-

The colonists dissatisfied with these restraints.

* Scobel's Acts, p. 187.

BOOK
IX.

mercé by their new masters. On the death of Mathews, the last governor named by Cromwell, the sentiments and inclination of the people, no longer under the control of authority, burst out with violence. They forced Sir William Berkeley to quit his retirement; they unanimously elected him governor of the colony: and as he refused to act under an usurped authority, they boldly erected the royal standard, and, acknowledging Charles II. to be their lawful sovereign, proclaimed him with all his titles; and the Virginians long boasted, that as they were the last of the king's subjects who renounced their allegiance, they were the first who returned to their duty*.

Are the
first to ac-
know-
ledge
Charles
II.

Their
loyalty
ill-re-
warded.

HAPPILY for the people of Virginia, a revolution in England, no less sudden and unexpected, seated Charles on the throne of his ancestors, and saved them from the severe chastisement, to which their premature declaration in his favour must have

* Beverley, p. 55. Chalmers, p. 124.

exposed

exposed them. On receiving the first account of this event, the joy and exultation of the colony were universal and unbounded. These, however, were not of long continuance. Gracious, but unproductive professions of esteem and good-will were the only return made by Charles to loyalty and services, which in their own estimation were so distinguished that no recompence was beyond what they might claim. If the king's neglect and ingratitude disappointed all the sanguine hopes which their vanity had founded on the merit of their past conduct, the spirit which influenced parliament in its commercial deliberations opened a prospect that alarmed them with respect to their future situation. In framing regulations for the encouragement of trade, which, during the convulsions of civil war, and amidst continual fluctuations in government, had met with such obstruction that it declined in every quarter; the House of Commons, instead of granting the colonies that relief which they expected from
the

BOOK
IX.

the restraints in their commerce imposed by the commonwealth and Cromwell, not only adopted all their ideas concerning this branch of legislation, but extended them farther. This produced the *act of navigation*, the most important and memorable of any in the statute book with respect to the history of English commerce. By it, besides several momentous articles foreign to the subject of this work, it was enacted, that no commodities should be imported into any settlement in Asia, Africa, or America, or exported from them, but in vessels of English or plantation built, whereof the master and three-fourths of the mariners shall be English subjects, under pain of forfeiting ship and goods; that none but natural-born subjects, or such as have been naturalized, shall exercise the occupation of merchant or factor in any English settlement, under pain of forfeiting their goods and chattels; that no sugar, tobacco, cotton, wool, indigo, ginger, or woods used in dying, of the growth or manufacture

Navigation
act.

facture of the colonies, shall be shipped **BOOK**
from them to any other country but Eng- **IX.**
land; and in order to secure the perform-
ance of this, a sufficient bond, with one
surety, shall be given, before sailing, by the
owners, for a specific sum proportional to
the rate of the vessel employed by them *.
The productions subjected to this restric-
tion are distinguished, in the language of
commerce and finance, by the name of
enumerated commodities; and as industry in
its progress furnished new articles of value,
these have been successively added to the
roll, and subjected to the same restraint.
Soon after, the act of navigation was ex- 1663.
tended, and additional restraints were im-
posed, by a new law, which prohibited the
importation of any European commodity
into the colonies, but what was laden in
England in vessels navigated and manned
as the act of navigation required. More
effectual provision was made by this law

* 12 Car. II. c. 18.

BOOK for exacting the penalties to which the
IX! transgressors of the act of navigation were
subjected; and the principles of policy, on
which the various regulations contained in
both statutes are founded, were openly
avowed in a declaration, that as the planta-
tions beyond seas are inhabited and peopled
by subjects of England, they may be kept
in a firmer dependance upon it, and ren-
dered yet more beneficial and advantage-
ous unto it, in the further employment and
increase of English shipping and seamen,
as well as in the vent of English woollen
and other manufactures and commodities;
and in making England a staple, not only
of the commodities of those plantations,
but also of the commodities of other
countries and places, for the supplying of
them; and it being the usage of other na-
tions to keep the trade of their plantations
to themselves*. In prosecution of those
favourite maxims, the English legislature
proceeded a step farther. As the act of

* 15 Car. II. c. 7.

navigation had left the people of the colonies at liberty to export the enumerated commodities from one plantation to another without paying any duty, it subjected them to a tax equivalent to what was paid by the consumers of these commodities in England *.

BOOK
IX.

1672.

By these successive regulations, the plan of securing to England a monopoly of the commerce with its colonies, and of shutting up every other channel into which it might be diverted, was perfected and reduced into complete system. On one side of the Atlantic, these regulations have been extolled as an extraordinary effort of political sagacity, and have been considered as the great charter of national commerce, to which the present state is indebted for all its opulence and power. On the other, they have been execrated as a code of oppression, more suited to the illiberality of mercantile ideas, than to extensive views of legislative wis-

Effects of
the act.

* 25 Car. II. c. 7.

L

dom.

BOOK
IX.

dom. Which of these opinions is best founded, I shall examine at large in another part of this work. But in writing the history of the English settlements in America, it was necessary to trace the progress of those restraining laws with accuracy, as in every subsequent transaction we may observe a perpetual exertion, on the part of the mother-country, to enforce and extend them; and on the part of the colonies, endeavours no less unremitting, to elude or to obstruct their operation.

Colonists
remon-
strate
against
the act.

HARDLY was the act of navigation known in Virginia, and its effects begun to be felt, when the colony remonstrated against it as a grievance, and petitioned earnestly for relief. But the commercial ideas of Charles and his ministers coincided so perfectly with those of parliament, that, instead of listening with a favourable ear to their applications, they laboured assiduously to carry the act into strict execution. For this purpose, instruc-
tions

tions were issued to the governor, forts were BOOK IX.
built on the banks of the principal rivers, }

and small vessels appointed to cruize on the coast. The Virginians, seeing no prospect of obtaining exemption from the act, set themselves to evade it, and found means, notwithstanding the vigilance with which they were watched, of carrying on a considerable clandestine trade with foreigners, particularly with the Dutch settled on Hudson's River. Emboldened by observing disaffection spread through the colony, some veteran soldiers who had served under Cromwell, and had been banished to Virginia, formed a design of rendering themselves masters of the country, and of asserting its independence on England. This rash project was discovered by one of their associates, and disconcerted by the vigorous exertions of Sir William Berkeley. But the spirit of discontent, though repressed, was not extinguished. Every day something occurred to revive and to nourish it. As it is with extreme difficulty that com-

1663.

BOOK
IX.

merce can be turned into a new channel, tobacco, the staple of the colony, sunk prodigiously in value, when they were compelled to send it all to one market. It was some time before England could furnish them regularly full assortments of those necessary articles, without which the industry of the colony could not be carried on, or its prosperity secured. Encouraged by the symptoms of general languor and despondency, which this declining state of the colony occasioned, the Indians seated towards the heads of the rivers ventured first to attack the remote settlements, and then to make incursions into the interior parts of the country. Unexpected as these hostilities were, from a people who during a long period had lived in friendship with the English, a measure taken by the king seems to have excited still greater terror among the most opulent people in the colony. Charles had imprudently imitated the example of his father, by granting such large tracts of land in Virginia to several of

Colony
attacked
by the
Indians.

Discon-
tents pro-
duced by
the grants
of land by
the crown.

his courtiers, as tended to unsettle the distribution of property in the country, and to render the title of the most ancient planters to their estates precarious and questionable. From those various causes, which in a greater or lesser degree affected every individual in the colony, the indignation of the people became general, and was worked up to such a pitch, that nothing was wanting to precipitate them into the most desperate acts, but some leader, qualified to unite and to direct their operations*.

BOOK
IX.

1676.

SUCH a leader they found in Nathaniel Bacon, a colonel of militia, who, though he had been settled in Virginia only three years, had acquired, by popular manners, an insinuating address, and the consideration derived from having been regularly trained in England to the profession of law, such general esteem, that he had been ad-

An insurrection in Virginia, headed by N. Bacon.

* Chalmers' Annals, ch. 10, 13, 14. passim. Beverley, p. 58, &c.

BOOK mitted into the council, and was regarded
IX. as one of the most respectable persons in
the colony. Bacon was ambitious, eloquent,
daring, and prompted either by honest
zeal to redress the public wrongs, or allured
by hopes of raising himself to distinction
and power, he mingled with the malcon-
tents, and by his bold harangues and con-
fident promises of removing all their griev-
ances, he inflamed them almost to madness.
As the devastations committed by the In-
dians was the calamity most sensibly felt by
the people, he accused the governor of hav-
ing neglected the proper measures for re-
pelling the invasions of the savages, and
exhorted them to take arms in their own
defence, and to exterminate that odious
race. Great numbers assembled, and chose
Bacon to be their general. He applied to
the governor for a commission, confirming
this election of the people, and offered to
march instantly against the common enemy.
Berkeley, accustomed by long possession of
supreme command to high ideas of the
respect

respect due to his station, considered this tumultuary armament as an open insult to his authority, and suspected that, under specious appearances, Bacon concealed most dangerous designs. Unwilling, however, to give farther provocation to an incensed multitude, by a direct refusal of what they demanded, he thought it prudent to negotiate, in order to gain time ; and it was not until he found all endeavours to sooth them ineffectual, that he issued a proclamation, requiring them, in the king's name, under the pain of being denounced rebels, to disperse.

BUT Bacon, sensible that he had now advanced so far as rendered it impossible to recede with honour or safety, instantly took the only resolution that remained in his situation. At the head of a chosen body of his followers he marched rapidly to James-Town, and surrounding the house where the governor and council were assembled, demanded the commission for

BOOK which he had formerly applied. Berkeley,
IX. with the proud indignant spirit of a cavalier, disdain-
ing the requisitions of a rebel, peremptorily refused to comply, and calmly presented his naked breast to the weapons which were pointed against it. The council, however, foreseeing the fatal consequences of driving an enraged multitude, in whose power they were, to the last extremities of violence, prepared a commission, constituting Bacon general of all the forces in Virginia, and by their entreaties prevailed on the governor to sign it. Bacon with his troops retired in triumph. Hardly was the council delivered by his departure from the dread of present danger, when, by a transition not unusual in feeble minds, presumptuous boldness succeeded to excessive fear. The commission granted to Bacon was declared to be null, having been extorted by force; he was proclaimed a rebel, his followers were required to abandon his standard, and the militia ordered to arm, and to join the governor.

ENRAGED

ENRAGED at conduct which he branded with the name of base and treacherous, Bacon, instead of continuing his march towards the Indian country, instantly wheeled about, and advanced with all his forces to James-Town. The governor, unable to resist such a numerous body, made his escape, and fled across the bay to Acomack on the Eastern shore. Some of the counsellors accompanied him thither, others retired to their own plantations. Upon the flight of Sir William Berkeley, and dispersion of the council, the frame of civil government in the colony seemed to be dissolved, and Bacon became possessed of supreme and uncontrolled power. But as he was sensible that his countrymen would not long submit with patience to authority acquired and held merely by force of arms, he endeavoured to found it on a more constitutional basis, by obtaining the sanction of the people's approbation. With this view he called together the most considerable gentlemen in the colony, and having prevailed

BOOK
IX.Bacon
forces Sir
W. Berkeley
and
the council
to fly.

BOOK
IX.

vailed on them to bind themselves by oath to maintain his authority, and to resist every enemy that should oppose it, he from that time considered his jurisdiction as legally established.

Sir W.
Berkeley
applies
for suc-
cours to
England.

BERKELEY, meanwhile, having collected some forces, made inroads into different parts of the colony, where Bacon's authority was recognized. Several sharp conflicts happened with various success. Jamestown was reduced to ashes, and the best cultivated districts in the province were laid waste, sometimes by one party, and sometimes by the other. But it was not by his own exertions that the governor hoped to terminate the contest. He had early transmitted an account of the transactions in Virginia to the king, and demanded such a body of soldiers as would enable him to quell the insurgents, whom he represented as so exasperated by the restraints imposed on their trade, that they were impatient to shake off all dependance on the parent

parent state. Charles, alarmed at a commo-
 tion no less dangerous than unexpected,
 and solicitous to maintain his authority
 over a colony, the value of which was daily
 increasing, and more fully understood,
 speedily dispatched a small squadron, with
 such a number of regular troops as Berke-
 ley had required. Bacon and his followers
 received information of this armament, but
 were not intimidated at its approach. They
 boldly determined to oppose it with open
 force, and declared it to be consistent with
 their duty and allegiance, to treat all who
 should aid Sir William Berkeley as enemies,
 until they should have an opportunity of
 laying their grievances before their sove-
 reign *.

BOOK
 IX.

BUT while both parties prepared, with
 equal animosity, to involve their country
 in the horrors of civil war, an event hap-
 pened, which quieted the commotion al-

1677:
 Death of
 Bacon
 termi-
 nates the
 rebellion.

* Beverley's Hist. p. 75, 76.

BOOK
IX.

most as suddenly as it had been excited. Bacon, when ready to take the field, sickened and died. None of his followers possessed such talents, or were so much objects of the people's confidence, as entitled them to aspire to the supreme command. Destitute of a leader to conduct and animate them; their sanguine hopes of success subsided; mutual distrust accompanied this universal despondency: all began to wish for an accommodation; and after a short negotiation with Sir William Berkeley, they laid down their arms, and submitted to his government, on obtaining a promise of general pardon.

Thus terminated an insurrection, which, in the annals of Virginia, is distinguished by the name of *Bacon's rebellion*. During seven months this daring leader was master of the colony, while the royal governor was shut up in a remote and ill-peopled corner of it. What were the real motives that prompted him to take arms, and to what length

length he intended to carry his plans of re-formation, either in commerce or government, it is not easy to discover, in the scanty materials from which we derive our information with respect to this transaction. It is probable, that his conduct, like that of other adventurers in faction, would have been regulated chiefly by events; and accordingly as these proved favourable or adverse, his views and requisitions would have been extended or circumscribed.

SIR WILLIAM BERKELEY, as soon as he was re-instated in his office, called together the representatives of the people, that by their advice and authority public tranquillity and order might be perfectly established. Though this assembly met a few weeks after the death of Bacon, while the memory of reciprocal injuries was still recent, and when the passions excited by such a fierce contest had but little time to subside, its proceedings were conducted with a moderation seldom exercised by the successful

BOOK
IX.

An assembly called;
its moderation.

BOOK successful party in a civil war. No man
 IX. suffered capitally; a small number were
 subjected to fines; others were declared incapable of holding any office of trust; and with those exceptions, the promise of general indemnity was confirmed by law. Soon after, Berkeley was recalled, and Colonel Jefferys was appointed his successor.

State of
 the colony
 till the
 Revolution
 in
 1688.

FROM that period to the Revolution in 1688, there is scarcely any memorable occurrence in the history of Virginia. A peace was concluded with the Indians. Under several successive governors, administration was carried on in the colony with the same arbitrary spirit that distinguished the latter years of Charles II. and the precipitate counsels of James II. The Virginians, with a constitution which, in form, resembled that of England, enjoyed hardly any portion of the liberty which that admirable system of policy is framed to secure. They were deprived even of the

last consolation of the oppressed, the power of complaining, by a law which, under severe penalties, prohibited them from speaking disrespectfully of the governor, or defaming, either by words or writing, the administration of the colony *. Still, however, the laws restraining their commerce were felt as an intolerable grievance, and nourished in secret a spirit of discontent, which, from the necessity of concealing it, acquired a greater degree of acrimony. But notwithstanding those unfavourable circumstances, the colony continued to increase. The use of tobacco was now become general in Europe; and though it had fallen considerably in price, the extent of demand compensated that diminution, and by giving constant employment to the industry of the planters diffused wealth among them. At the Revolution the number of inhabitants in the

BOOK
IX.

* Beverley, p. 81. Chalmers, p. 341.

colony

BOOK colony exceeded sixty thousand*, and
IX. in the course of twenty-eight years its
population had been more than dou-
bled †.

* Chalmers' Annals, p. 356. † Ibid. p. 125.

and
its
dou-

125.

THE
HISTORY
OF
AMERICA.

BOOK X.

WHEN James I. in the year one thousand six hundred and six, made that magnificent partition, which has been mentioned, of a vast region in North America, extending from the thirty-fourth to the forty-fifth degree of latitude, between two trading companies of his subjects, he established the residence of the one in London, and of the other in Plymouth. The former was authorized to settle in the southern, and the latter in the northern part of this territory,

BOOK
X.

History of
the north-
ern colo-
ny, and of
the Ply-
mouth
company.

BOOK
X. territory, then distinguished by the general name of Virginia. This arrangement seems to have been formed upon the idea of some speculative refiner, who aimed at diffusing the spirit of industry, by fixing the seat of one branch of the trade that was now to be opened, on the east coast of the island, and the other on the west. But London possesses such advantages of situation, that the commercial wealth and activity of England have always centered in the capital. At the beginning of the last century, the superiority of the metropolis in both these respects was so great, that though the powers and privileges conferred by the king on the two trading companies were precisely the same, the adventurers settled in Plymouth fell far short of those in London, in the vigour and success of their efforts towards accomplishing the purpose of their institution. Though the operations of the Plymouth company were animated by the public-spirited zeal of Sir John Popham, chief justice of England, Sir Ferdinando Gorges,

Gorges, and some other gentlemen of the BOOK
 west, all its exertions were feeble and un- X.
 fortunate.

THE first vessel fitted out by the com- 1606.
 pany was taken by the Spaniards. In the First at-
 year one thousand six hundred and seven, tempts
 a feeble settlement was made at Sagaha- to settle
 doc; but, on account of the rigour of the on the
 climate, was soon relinquished, and for some northern
 time nothing farther was attempted than a coast.
 few fishing voyages to Cape Cod, or a piti-
 ful traffic with the natives for skins and
 oil. One of the vessels equipped for this
 purpose was commanded by Captain Smith, Smith
 whose name has been so often mentioned surveys
 with distinction in the History of Virginia. that coast,
 The adventure was prosperous and lucra- and calls
 tive. But his ardent enterprising mind it New
 could not confine its attention to objects so England.
 unequal to it as the petty details of a trad- 1614.
 ing voyage. He employed a part of his
 time in exploring the coast, and in deli-
 neating its bays and harbours. On his
 M 2 return,

BOOK
X.

return, he laid a map of it before Prince Charles, and, with the usual exaggeration of discoverers, painted the beauty and excellence of the country in such glowing colours, that the young Prince, in the warmth of admiration, declared, that it should be called New England *: a name which effaced that of Virginia, and by which it is still distinguished.

First attempts
to settle
unsuccessful.

THE favourable accounts of the country by Smith, as well as the success of his voyage, seem to have encouraged private adventurers to prosecute the trade on the coast of New England with greater brilliancy; but did not inspire the languishing company of Plymouth with such vigour as to make any new attempt towards establishing a permanent colony there. Something more than the prospect of distant gain to themselves, or of future advantages to their country, was requisite, in order to

* Smith's Trav. Book vi. p. 203, &c. Purchas, iv. p. 1837.

induce

induce men to abandon the place of their nativity, to migrate to another quarter of the globe, and endure innumerable hardships under an untried climate, and in an uncultivated land, covered with woods, or occupied by fierce and hostile tribes of savages. But what mere attention to private emolument or to national utility could not effect, was accomplished by the operation of an higher principle. Religion had gradually excited among a great body of the people, a spirit that fitted them remarkably for encountering the dangers, and surmounting the obstacles, which had hitherto rendered abortive the schemes of colonization in that part of America allotted to the company of Plymouth. As the various settlements in New England are indebted for their origin to this spirit, as in the course of our narrative we shall discern its influence mingling in all their transactions, and giving a peculiar tincture to the character of the people, as well as to their institutions, both civil and ecclesiastical, it becomes ne-

BOOK
X.
Religious
disputes
give rise
to the
New Eng-
land co-
lony.

BOOK X. necessary to trace its rise and progress with
 { attention and accuracy.

Different
 senti-
 ments re-
 specting
 church
 govern-
 ment that
 prevailed
 at the Re-
 forma-
 tion.

WHEN the superstitions and corruptions of the Romish church prompted different nations of Europe to throw off its yoke, and to withdraw from its communion, the mode as well as degree of their separation was various. Wherever reformation was sudden, and carried on by the people without authority from their rulers, or in opposition to it, the rupture was violent and total. Every part of the ancient fabric was overturned, and a different system, not only with respect to doctrine, but to church government, and the external rites of worship; was established. Calvin, who, by his abilities, learning, and austerity of manners, had acquired high reputation and authority in the Protestant churches, was a zealous advocate for this plan of thorough reformation. He exhibited a model of that pure form of ecclesiastical policy, which he approved in the constitution of the church
 of

of Geneva. The simplicity of its institutions, and still more their repugnancy to those of the Popish church, were so much admired by all the stricter reformers, that it was copied, with some small variations, in Scotland, in the Republic of the United Provinces, in the dominions of the House of Brandenburg, in those of the Elector Palatine, and in the churches of the Hugonots in France.

BUT in those countries where the steps of departure from the church of Rome were taken with greater deliberation, and regulated by the wisdom, or policy of the supreme magistrate, the separation was not so wide. Of all the reformed churches, that of England has deviated least from the ancient institutions. The violent but capricious spirit of Henry VIII. who, though he disclaimed the supremacy, revered the tenets of the Papal see, checked innovations in doctrine or worship during his reign. When his son ascended the throne, and the

BOOK
X.

Protestant religion was established by law, the cautious prudence of Archbishop Cranmer moderated the zeal of those who had espoused the new opinions. Though the articles to be recognized as the system of national faith were framed conformably to the doctrines of Calvin, his notions with respect to church government and the mode of worship were not adopted. As the hierarchy in England was incorporated with the civil policy of the kingdom, and constituted a member of the legislature, archbishops and bishops, with all the subordinate ranks of ecclesiastics subject to them, were continued according to ancient form, and with the same dignity and jurisdiction. The peculiar vestments in which the clergy performed their sacred functions, bowing at the name of Jesus, kneeling at receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the sign of the Cross in baptism, the use of the Ring in marriage, with several other rites to which long usage had accustomed the people, and which time had rendered

dered venerable, were still retained. But **BOOK**
 though Parliament enjoined the observance **X.**
 of these ceremonies under very severe penalties *, several of the more zealous clergy entertained scruples with respect to the lawfulness of complying with this injunction; and the vigilance and authority of Cranmer and Ridley with difficulty saved their infant church from the disgrace of a schism on this account.

ON the accession of Mary, the furious **Religious**
 zeal with which she persecuted all who had **persecu-**
 adopted the tenets of the reformers forced **tion by**
 many eminent Protestants, laymen as well **Mary.**
 as ecclesiastics, to seek an asylum on the continent. Francfort, Geneva, Basil, and Strasburgh, received them with affectionate hospitality as sufferers in the cause of truth, and the magistrates permitted them to assemble by themselves for religious worship. The exiles who took up their residence in

* 2 and 3 Edw. VI. c. 1.

BOOK
X.

the two former cities modelled their little congregations according to the ideas of Calvin, and, with a spirit natural to men in their situation, eagerly adopted institutions which appeared to be farther removed from the superstitions of Popery than those of their own church. They returned to England as soon as Elizabeth re-established the Protestant religion, not only with more violent antipathy to the opinions and practices of that church by which they had been oppressed, but with a strong attachment to that mode of worship to which they had been for some years accustomed. As they were received by their countrymen with the veneration due to confessors, they exerted all the influence derived from that opinion, in order to obtain such a reformation in the English ritual as might bring it nearer to the standard of purity in foreign churches. Some of the queen's most confidential ministers were warmly disposed to co-operate with them in this measure. But Elizabeth paid little regard

Queen
Eliza-
beth.

to

to the inclinations of the one, or the sentiments of the other. Fond of pomp and ceremony, accustomed, according to the mode of that age, to study religious controversy, and possessing, like her father, such confidence in her own understanding that she never doubted her capacity to judge and decide with respect to every point in dispute between contending sects*, she

* Of the high idea which Elizabeth entertained with respect to her own superior skill in theology, as well as the haughty tone in which she dictated to her subjects what they ought to believe, we have a striking picture in her speech at the close of the parliament A. D. 1585.—“One thing I may not overskip. Religion, the ground on which all other matters ought to take root, and being corrupted, may mar all the tree. And that there be some fault-finders with the order of the clergy, which so may make a slander to myself, and to the church, whose over-ruler God hath made me, whose negligence cannot be excused, if any schisms or errors heretical were suffered. Thus much, I must say, that some faults and negligences must grow and be, as in all other great charges it happeneth; and what vocation without? All which, if you my lords of the clergy do not amend, I mean to depose you.

Look

BOOK
X.

she chose to act according to her own ideas, which led her rather to approach nearer to the church of Rome, in the parade of external worship, than to widen the breach by abolishing any rite already established *. An act of parliament, in the first year of her reign, not only required an exact conformity to the mode of worship prescribed in the service book, under most rigorous penalties, but empowered the Queen to enjoin the observance of such additional ceremonies as might tend, in her opinion, to

Look ye, therefore, well to your charges. This may be amended without needless or open exclamations. I am supposed to have many studies, but most philosophical. I must yield this to be true, that I suppose few (that be not professors) have read more. And I need not tell you, that I am not so simple that I understand not, nor so forgetful that I remember not; and yet, amidst my many volumes, I hope God's book hath not been my seldomest lectures, in which we find that which by reason all ought to believe. I see many over-bold with God Almighty, making too many subtle scannings of his blessed will. The presumption is so great that I may not suffer it," &c. D'Ewes's Journal, p. 328.

* Neal's Hist. of the Puritans, i. 138. 176.

render

render the public exercises of devotion more **BOOK**
decent and edifying *. **X.**

THE advocates for a farther reformation, Puritans, notwithstanding this cruel disappointment of the sanguine hopes with which they returned to their native country, did not relinquish their design. They disseminated their opinions with great industry among the people. They extolled the purity of foreign churches, and inveighed against the superstitious practices with which religion was defiled in their own church. In vain did the defenders of the established system represent that these forms and ceremonies were, in themselves, things perfectly indifferent, which, from long usage, were viewed with reverence; and, by their impression upon the senses and imagination, tended not only to fix the attention, but to affect the heart, and to warm it with devout and worthy sentiments. The Puritans (for by that name such as scrupled to comply with

* 1 Eliz. c. 2.

what

BOOK ^{X.} what was enjoined by the act of uniformity were distinguished) maintained, that the rites in question were inventions of men, superadded to the simple and reasonable service required in the word of God; that from the excessive solicitude with which conformity to them was exacted, the multitude must conceive such an high opinion of their value and importance, as might induce them to rest satisfied with the mere form and shadow of religion, and to imagine that external observances may compensate for the want of inward sanctity; that ceremonies which had been long employed by a society manifestly corrupt, to veil its own defects, and to seduce and fascinate mankind, ought now to be rejected as relics of superstition unworthy of a place in a church which gloried in the name of *Reformed*.

Intolerant
spirit of
the
church.

THE people, to whom in every religious controversy the final appeal is made, listened to the arguments of the contending parties ;

and it is obvious to which of them, men BOOK
who had lately beheld the superstitious X.
spirit of Popery, and felt its persecuting
rage, would lend the most favourable ear.
The desire of a farther separation from the
church of Rome spread wide through the
nation. The preachers who contended for
this, and who refused to wear the sur-
plice, and other vestments peculiar to their
order, or to observe the ceremonies en-
joined by law, were followed and admired,
while the ministry of the zealous advocates
for conformity was deserted, and their per-
sons often exposed to insult. For some
time the non-conformists were connived
at; but as their number and boldness in-
creased, the interposition both of spiritual
and civil authority was deemed necessary in
order to check their progress. To the dis-
grace of Christians, the sacred rights of
conscience and private judgment, as well as
the charity and mutual forbearance suit-
able to the mild spirit of the religion
which they professed, were in that age little
understood.

BOOK understood. Not only the idea of toleration, but even the word itself in the sense now affixed to it, was then unknown. Every church claimed a right to employ the hand of power for the protection of truth and the extirpation of error. The laws of her kingdom armed Elizabeth with ample authority for this purpose, and she was abundantly disposed to exercise it with full vigour. Many of the most eminent among the Puritan clergy were deprived of their benefices, others were imprisoned, several were fined, and some put to death. But persecution, as usually happens, instead of extinguishing, inflamed their zeal to such a height, that the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts of law was deemed insufficient to suppress it, and a new tribunal was established under the title of the *high commission for ecclesiastical affairs*, whose powers and mode of procedure were hardly less odious or less hostile to the principles of justice than those of the Spanish inquisition. Several attempts were made

made in the House of Commons to check these arbitrary proceedings, and to moderate the rage of persecution; but the Queen always imposed silence upon those who presumed to deliver any opinion with respect to a matter appertaining solely to her prerogative, in a tone as imperious and arrogant as was ever used by Henry VIII, in addressing his Parliaments; and so tamely obsequious were the guardians of the people's rights, that they not only obeyed those unconstitutional commands, but consented to an act, by which every person who should absent himself from church during a month was subjected to punishment by fine and imprisonment; and if after conviction he did not, within three months, renounce his erroneous opinions and conform to the laws, he was then obliged to abjure the realm; but if he either refused to comply with this condition, or returned from banishment, he should be put to death as a felon without benefit of clergy *.

* 35 Eliz. c. 1.



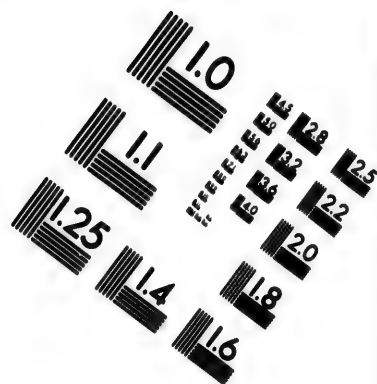
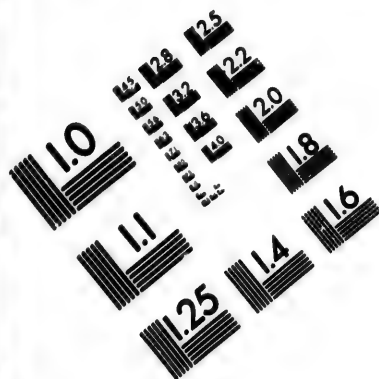
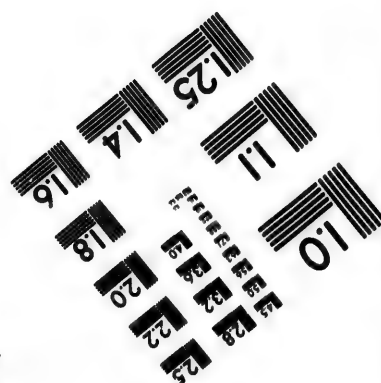
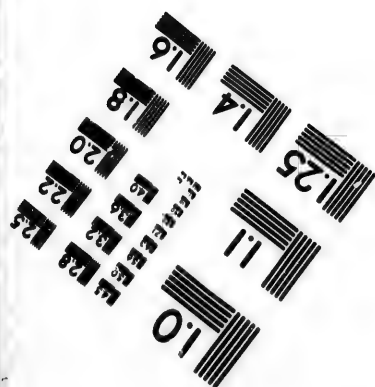
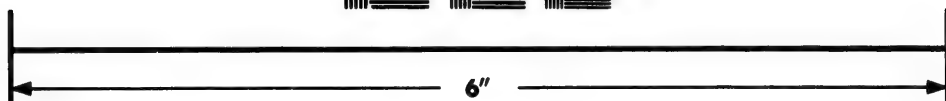
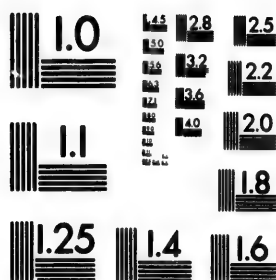


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BOOK
X.

Entire se-
paration
of the
Puritans
from the
church.

By this iniquitous statute, equally repugnant to ideas of civil and of religious liberty, the Puritans were cut off from any hope of obtaining either reformation in the church or indulgence to themselves. Exasperated by this rigorous treatment, their antipathy to the established religion increased, and, with the progress natural to violent passions, carried them far beyond what was their original aim. The first Puritans did not entertain any scruples with respect to the lawfulness of Episcopal government, and seem to have been very unwilling to withdraw from communion with the church of which they were members. But when they were thrown out of her bosom, and constrained to hold separate assemblies for the worship of God, their followers no longer viewed a society by which they were oppressed with reverence or affection. Her government, her discipline, her ritual, were examined with minute attention. Every error was pointed out, and every defect magnified. The more boldly any teacher inveighed against the corrup-

tions of the church, he was listened to with greater approbation; and the farther he urged his disciples to depart from such an impure community, the more eagerly did they follow him. By degrees, ideas of ecclesiastical policy, altogether repugnant to those of the established church, gained footing in the nation. The more sober and learned Puritans inclined to that form which is known by the name of Presbyterian. Such as were more thoroughly possessed with the spirit of innovation, however much they might approve the equality of pastors which that system establishes, reprobated the authority which it vests in various judicatories, descending from one to another in regular subordination, as inconsistent with Christian liberty.

THESE wild notions floated for some time in the minds of the people, and amused them with many ideal schemes of ecclesiastical policy. At length Robert Brown, a popular declaimer in high estimation, reduced

BOOK

X.

Brownists;
1580.

BOOK
X.
duced them to a system, on which he modelled his own congregation. He taught, that the church of England was corrupt, and antichristians, its ministers not lawfully ordained, its ordinances and sacraments invalid; and therefore he prohibited his people to hold communion with it in any religious function. He maintained, that a society of Christians, uniting together to worship God, constituted a church, possessed of complete jurisdiction in the conduct of its own affairs, independent of any other society, and unaccountable to any superior; that the priesthood was neither a distinct order in the church, nor conferred an indelible character; but that every man qualified to teach might be set apart for that office by the election of the brethren, and by imposition of their hands; in like manner, by their authority, he might be discharged from that function, and reduced to the rank of a private Christian; that every person when admitted a member of a church ought to make a public confession

of his faith, and give evidence of his being in a state of favour with God; and that all the affairs of a church were to be regulated by the decision of the majority of its members.

BOOK

X

THIS democratical form of government, which abolished all distinction of ranks in the church, and conferred an equal portion of power on every individual, accorded so perfectly with the levelling genius of fanaticism, that it was fondly adopted by many as a complete model of Christian policy. From their founder, they were denominated Brownists; and as their tenets were more hostile to the established religion than those of other separatists, the fiercest storm of persecution fell upon their heads. Many of them were fined or imprisoned, and some put to death; and though Brown, with a levity of which there are few examples among enthusiasts whose vanity has been soothed by being recognized as heads of a party, abandoned his disciples,

Brownists
take re-
fuge in
Holland.

BOOK
X.
conformed to the established religion, and accepted of a benefice in the church, the sect not only subsisted, but continued to spread, especially among persons in the middle and lower ranks of life. But as all their motions were carefully watched, both by the ecclesiastical and civil courts, which, as often as they were detected, punished them with the utmost rigour, a body of them, weary of living in a state of continual danger and alarm, fled to Holland, and settled in Leyden, under the care of Mr. John Robinson, their pastor. There they resided for several years unmolested and obscure. But many of their aged members dying, and some of the younger marrying into Dutch families, while their church received no increase, either by recruits from England, or by proselytes gained in the country, they began to be afraid, that all their high attainments in spiritual knowledge would be lost, and that perfect fabric of policy, which they had erected, would be dissolved
and

and consigned to oblivion, if they remained longer in a strange land.

BOOK
X.

DEEPLY affected with the prospect of an event, which to them appeared fatal to the interests of truth, they thought themselves called, in order to prevent it, to remove to some other place, where they might profess and propagate their opinions with greater success. America, in which their countrymen were at that time intent on planting colonies, presented itself to their thoughts. They flattered themselves with hopes of being permitted, in that remote region, to follow their own ideas in religion without disturbance. The dangers and hardships to which all former emigrants to America had been exposed, did not deter them. "They were well weaned, (according to their own description) from the delicate milk of their mother country, and enured to the difficulties of a strange land. They were knit together in a strict and sacred band, by virtue of which they

Remove
from
thence to
America.

BOOK held themselves obliged to take care of the
X. good of each other, and of the whole. It
 was not with them, as with other men,
 whom small things could discourage, or
 small discontents cause to wish themselves
 1618. at home again *." The first object of their
 solicitude was to secure the free exercise of
 their religion. For this purpose they ap-
 plied to the king; and though James re-
 fused to give them any explicit assurance of
 toleration, they seem to have obtained from
 him some promise of his connivance, as
 long as they continued to demean them-
 selves quietly. So eager were they to ac-
 complish their favourite scheme, that, rely-
 ing on this precarious security, they began
 to negotiate with the Virginian company
 for a tract of land within the limits of
 their patent. This they easily procured
 from a society desirous of encouraging mi-
 gration to a vast country, of which they
 had hitherto occupied only a few spots.

* Hutchinson's Hist. of Massach. p. 4.

AFTER

AFTER the utmost efforts, their preparations fell far short of what was requisite for beginning the settlement of a new colony.

A hundred and twenty persons sailed from England in a single ship on this arduous undertaking. The place of their destination was Hudson's River, where they intended to settle; but their captain having been bribed, as is said, by the Dutch, who had then formed a scheme which they afterwards accomplished of planting a colony there, carried them so far towards the north, that the first land in America which they made was Cape-Cod. They were now, not only beyond the precincts of the territory which had been granted to them, but beyond those of the company from which they derived their right. The season, however, was so far advanced, and sickness raged so violently among men unaccustomed to the hardships of a long voyage, that it became necessary to take up their abode there. After exploring the coast, they chose for their station, a place
now

BOOK

X.

1620.
Sept. 6.
First attempt to settle in Massachusetts Bay.

Nov. 11.

BOOK now belonging to the province of Massachusetts Bay, to which they gave the name of New Plymouth, probably out of respect to that company, within whose jurisdiction they now found themselves situated *.

X.
Settle at
New Ply-
mouth.

No season could be more unfavourable to settlement than that in which the colony landed. The winter, which, from the predominance of cold in America, is rigorous to a degree unknown in parallel latitudes of our hemisphere, was already set in; and they were slenderly provided with what was requisite for comfortable subsistence, under a climate considerably more severe than that for which they had made preparation. Above one half of them was cut off before the return of spring, by diseases, or by famine: the survivors, instead of having leisure to attend to the supply of their own wants, were compelled to take arms

* Hubbard's Pref. State, p. 3. Cotton's Magnalia, p. 7. Hutchinson's Hist. p. 3, &c.

against

against the savages in their neighbourhood. Happily for the English, a pestilence, which raged in America the year before they landed, had swept off so great a number of the natives, that they were quickly repulsed and humbled. The privilege of professing their own opinions, and of being governed by laws of their own framing, afforded consolation to the colonists amidst all their dangers and hardships. The constitution of their church was the same with that which they had established in Holland. Their system of civil government was founded on those ideas of the natural equality among men, to which their ecclesiastical policy had accustomed them. Every free man, who was a member of the church, was admitted into the supreme legislative body. The laws of England were adopted as the basis of their jurisprudence, though with some diversity in the punishments inflicted upon crimes, borrowed from the Mosaic institutions. The executive power was vested in a governor and

BOOK
X.Plan of
govern-
ment.

BOOK
X.

and some assistants, who were elected annually by the members of the legislative assembly*. So far their institutions appear to be founded on the ordinary maxims of human prudence. But it was a favourite opinion with all the enthusiasts of that age, that the scriptures contained a complete system, not only of spiritual instruction, but of civil wisdom and polity; and without attending to the peculiar circumstances or situation of the people, whose history is there recorded, they often deduced general rules for their own conduct, from what happened among men in a very different state. Under the influence of this wild notion, the colonists of New Plymouth, in imitation of the primitive Christians, threw all their property into a common stock, and, like members of one family, carried on every work of industry by their joint labour for public behoof†. But,

Communit
y of
goods.

* Chalmers' Annals, p. 87.

† Ibid. p. 89. Douglas's Summary, i. p. 376.

however

however this resolution might evidence the sincerity of their faith, it retarded the progress of their colony. The same fatal effects flowed from this community of goods, and of labour, which had formerly been experienced in Virginia; and it soon became necessary to relinquish what was too refined to be capable of being accommodated to the affairs of men. But though they built a small town, and surrounded it with such a fence as afforded sufficient security against the assaults of Indians, the soil around it was so poor, their religious principles were so unsocial, and the supply sent them by their friends so scanty, that at the end of ten years, the number of people belonging to the settlement did not exceed three hundred *. During some years they appear not to have acquired right by any legal conveyance to the territory which they had occupied. At length they obtained a grant of property from the council of the New Plymouth company, but

BOOK
X.This institution
hurtful to
the colony.

1630.

* Chalmers' Annals, p. 97.

were

BOOK were never incorporated as a body politic
X.

by royal charter*. Unlike all the other

This colony not incorporated by charter.

settlements in America, this colony must be considered merely as a voluntary association, held together by the tacit consent of its members to recognize the authority of laws, and submit to the jurisdiction of magistrates framed and chosen by themselves. In this state it remained an independent, but feeble community, until it was united to its more powerful neighbour, the colony of Massachusetts Bay, the origin and progress of which I now proceed to relate.

Grand council of Plymouth appointed.

THE original company of Plymouth having done nothing effectual towards establishing any permanent settlement in America, James I. in the year one thousand six hundred and twenty, issued a new charter to the Duke of Lenox, the Marquis of Buckingham, and several other persons of

* Chalmers' Annals, p. 97. 107.

distinction

distinction in his court, by which he conveyed to them a right to a territory in America, still more extensive than what had been granted to the former patentees, incorporating them as a body politic, in order to plant colonies there, with powers and jurisdiction similar to those contained in his charters to the companies of South and North Virginia. This society was distinguished by the name of the Grand Council of Plymouth for planting and governing New England. What considerations of public utility could induce the king to commit such an undertaking to persons apparently so ill qualified for conducting it, or what prospect of private advantage prompted them to engage in it, the information we receive from contemporary writers does not enable us to determine. Certain it is, that the expectations of both were disappointed, and after many schemes and arrangements, all the attempts of the new associates towards colonization proved unsuccessful.

NEW

BOOK
X.

BOOK
X.Project of
a new co-
lony.

NEW England must have remained unoccupied, if the same causes which occasioned the emigration of the Brownists had not continued to operate. Notwithstanding the violent persecution to which Puritans of every denomination were still exposed, their number and zeal daily increased. As they now despaired of obtaining in their own country any relaxation of the penal statutes enacted against their sect, many began to turn their eyes towards some other place of retreat, where they might profess their own opinions with impunity. From the tranquillity which their brethren had hitherto enjoyed in New Plymouth, they hoped to find this desired asylum in New England; and by the activity of Mr. White, a non-conformist minister at Dorchester, an association was formed by several gentlemen who had imbibed Puritanical notions, in order to conduct a colony thither. They purchased from the council of Plymouth all the territory, extending in length from three miles north of the

the River Merrimack, to three miles south of Charles River, and in breadth, from the Atlantic to the Southern Ocean. Zealous as these proprietors were to accomplish their favourite purpose, they quickly perceived their own inability to attempt the population of such an immense region, and deemed it necessary to call in the aid of more opulent co-partners*.

BOOK
X.

1627.
Mar. 19.

Or these they found, without difficulty, a sufficient number, chiefly in the capital, and among persons in the commercial and other industrious walks of life, who had openly joined the sect of the Puritans, or secretly favoured their opinions. These new adventurers, with the caution natural to men conversant in business, entertained doubts concerning the propriety of founding a colony on the basis of a grant from a private company of patentees, who might convey a right of property in the soil, but could not confer jurisdiction, or the privi-

* Neal's Hist. of New Engl. i. p. 122.

BOOK
X.

lege of governing that society which they had in contemplation to establish. As it was only from royal authority that such powers could be derived, they applied for these; and Charles granted their request, with a facility which appears astonishing, when we consider the principles and views of the men who were suitors for the favour.

Charter to
the new
colony of
Massachu-
setts Bay.

TIME has been considered as the parent of political wisdom, but its instructions are communicated slowly. Although the experience of above twenty years might have taught the English the impropriety of committing the government of settlements in America, to exclusive corporations resident in Europe, neither the king nor his subjects had profited so much by what passed before their eyes, as to have extended their ideas beyond those adopted by James, in his first attempts towards colonization. The charter of Charles I. to the adventurers associated for planting the province
of

of Massachusetts Bay, was perfectly similar BOOK
X.
to those granted by his father to the two
Virginian companies and to the council of
Plymouth. The new adventurers were in-
corporated as a body politic, and their right
to the territory, which they had purchased
from the council of Plymouth, being con-
firmed by the king, they were empowered
to dispose of the lands, and to govern the
people who should settle upon them. The
first governor of the company, and his
assistants, were named by the crown: the
right of electing their successors was vested
in the members of the corporation. The
executive power was committed to the go-
vernor and assistants; that of legislation to
the body of proprietors, who might make
statutes and orders for the good of the com-
munity, not inconsistent with the laws of
England, and enforce the observance of
them, according to the course of other cor-
porations within the realm. Their lands
were to be held by the same liberal tenure
with those granted to the Virginian com-
pany.

BOOK
X.

pany. They obtained the same temporary exemption from internal taxes, and from duties on goods exported or imported; and notwithstanding their migration to America, they and their descendants were declared to be entitled to all the rights of natural-born subjects*.

THE manifest object of this charter was to confer on the adventurers who undertook to people the territory on Massachusetts Bay, all the corporate rights possessed by the council of Plymouth, from which they had purchased it, and to form them into a public body, resembling other great trading companies, which the spirit of monarchy had at that time multiplied in the kingdom. The king seems not to have foreseen, or to have suspected, the secret intentions of those who projected the measure; for so far was he from alluring emigrants, by any hopes of indulgence with

* Hutchinson's Collect. of Orig. Papers, p. 1, &c.

respect

respect to their religious scruples, or from ^{BOOK} promising any relaxation from the rigour ^{X.} of the penal statutes against non-conformists, that he expressly provides for having the oath of supremacy administered to every person who shall pass to the colony, or inhabit there *.

BUT whatever were the intentions of the king, the adventurers kept their own object ^{1629. Settlement in}

* Hutchinson's Collect. of Orig. Papers, p. 18.—

It is surprising, that Mr. Neal, an industrious, and generally a well-informed writer, should affirm, that "free liberty of conscience was granted by this charter to all who should settle in those parts, to worship God in their own way." Hist. of N. Engl. i. 124. This he repeats in his History of the Puritans, ii. 210; and subsequent historians have copied him implicitly. No permission of that kind, however, is contained in the charter; and such an indulgence would have been inconsistent with all the maxims of Charles and his ministers during the course of his reign. At the time when Charles issued the charter, the influence of Laud over his councils was at its height, the Puritans were prosecuted with the greatest severity, and the kingdom was ruled entirely by prerogative. This is not an era in which one can expect to meet with concessions in favour of non-conformists, from a prince of Charles's character and principles.

BOOK steadily in view. Soon after their powers

X.
consequence of
this charter.

to establish a colony were rendered complete by the royal charter, they fitted out five ships for New England; on board of which embarked upwards of three hundred passengers, with a view of settling there. These were mostly zealous Puritans, whose chief inducement to relinquish their native land was the hope of enjoying religious liberty, in a country far removed from the seat of government and the oppression of ecclesiastical courts. Some eminent non-conformist ministers accompanied them as their spiritual instructors. On their arrival in New England, they found the wretched remainder of a small body of emigrants, who had left England the preceding year, under the conduct of Endicott, a deep enthusiast, whom, prior to their incorporation by the royal charter, the associates had appointed deputy governor. They were settled at a place called by the Indians Naunekeag, and to which Endicott, with the fond affectation of fanatics of that

age

age to employ the language and appellations of scripture in the affairs of common life, had given the name of Salem.

BOOK
X.

THE emigrants under Endicott, and such as now joined them, coincided perfectly in religious principles. They were Puritans of the strictest form; and to men of this character the institution of a church was naturally of such interesting concern as to take place of every other object. In this first transaction, they displayed, at once, the extent of the reformation at which they aimed. Without regard to the sentiments of that monarch under the sanction of whose authority they settled in America, and from whom they derived right to act as a body politic, and in contempt of the laws of England, with which the charter required that none of their acts or ordinances should be inconsistent, they adopted in their infant church that form of policy which has since been distinguished by the name of Independent. They united together in religious

Begin
with estab-
lishing a
church.

Aug. 6.

BOOK society, by a solemn covenant with God,
 X. and with one another, and in strict conformity, as they imagined, to the rules of scripture. They elected a pastor, a teacher, and an elder, whom they set apart for their respective offices, by imposition of the hands of the brethren. All who were that day admitted members of the church, signified their assent to a confession of faith drawn up by their teacher, and gave an account of the foundation of their own hopes as Christians; and it was declared, that no person should hereafter be received into communion until he gave satisfaction to the church with respect to his faith and sanctity. The form of public worship which they instituted was without a liturgy, disincumbered of every superfluous ceremony, and reduced to the lowest standard of Calvinistic simplicity *.

Intolerance of the new church.

It was with the utmost complacency that men, passionately attached to their own

* Math. Magnal. p. 18. Neal's Hist. of N. Engl. i. 146. Chalmers, p. 143.

notions,

notions, and who had long been restrained **BOOK**
from avowing them, employed themselves **X**
in framing this model of a pure church. But, in the first moment that they began to taste of Christian liberty themselves, they forgot that other men had an equal title to enjoy it. Some of their number, retaining an high veneration for the ritual of the English church, were so much offended at the total abolition of it, that they withdrew from communion with the newly-instituted church, and assembled separately for the worship of God. With an inconsistency, of which there are such flagrant instances among Christians of every denomination that it cannot be imputed as a reproach peculiar to any sect, the very men who had themselves fled from persecution became persecutors; and had recourse, in order to enforce their own opinions, to the same unhallowed weapons, against the employment of which they had lately remonstrated with so much violence. Endicott called the two chief malcontents before him;

BOOK him; and though they were men of note,
 X. and among the number of original patentees, he expelled them from the society, and sent them home in the ships which were returning to England*. The colonists were now united in sentiments; but, on the approach of winter, they suffered so much from diseases, which carried off almost one half of their number, that they made little progress in occupying the country.

Emigrations from England increased by the intolerance of Laud.

MEANWHILE the directors of the company in England exerted their utmost endeavours in order to reinforce the colony with a numerous body of new settlers; and as the intolerant spirit of Laud exacted conformity to all the injunctions of the church with greater rigour than ever, the condition of such as had any scruples with respect to this became so intolerable, that many accepted of their invitation to a secure retreat in New England. Several of

* Mather, p. 19. Neal, p. 129.

these

these were persons of greater opulence and of better condition than any who had hitherto migrated to that country. But as they intended to employ their fortunes, as well as to hazard their persons, in establishing a permanent colony there, and foresaw many inconveniences from their subjection to laws made without their own consent, and framed by a society which must always be imperfectly acquainted with their situation, they insisted that the corporate powers of the company should be transferred from England to America, and the government of the colony be vested entirely in those who, by settling in the latter country, became members of it*. The company had already expended considerable sums in prosecuting the design of their institution, without having received almost any return, and had no prospect of gain, or even of reimbursement, but what was too remote and uncertain to be suitable to

BOOK
X.

* Hutchinson's Coll. of Papers, p. 25.

the

BOOK ^{X.} the ideas of merchants, the most numerous class of its members. They hesitated, however, with respect to the legality of granting the demand of the intended emigrants. But such was their eagerness to be disengaged from an unpromising adventure, that, "by general consent, it was determined, that the charter should be transferred, and the government be settled in New England *." To the members of the corporation who chose to remain at home was reserved a share in the trading stock and profits of the company during seven years.

Charter
of the
company
transferred to the
colonists.

IN this singular transaction, to which there is nothing similar in the history of English colonization, two circumstances merit particular attention: one is the power of the company to make this transference; the other is the silent acquiescence with which the king permitted it to take place. If the validity of this determination of the

* Mather, p. 20. Hutchinson's Hist. p. 12. Chalmers, p. 150.

company

company be tried by the charter which constituted it a body politic, and conveyed to it all the corporate powers with which it was invested, it is evident that it could neither exercise those powers in any mode different from what the charter prescribed, nor alienate them in such a manner as to convert the jurisdiction of a trading corporation in England into a provincial government in America. But from the first institution of the company of Massachusetts Bay, its members seem to have been animated with a spirit of innovation in civil policy, as well as in religion; and by the habit of rejecting established usages in the one, they were prepared for deviating from them in the other. They had applied for a royal charter, in order to give legal effect to their operations in England, as acts of a body politic; but the persons whom they sent out to America, as soon as they landed there, considered themselves as individuals, united together by voluntary association, possessing the natural right of
men

BOOK men who form a society, to adopt what
X. mode of government, and to exact what
laws they deemed most conducive to general felicity. Upon this principle of being entitled to judge and to decide for themselves, they established their church in Salem, without regard to the institutions of the church of England, of which the charter supposed them to be members, and bound of consequence to conformity with its ritual. Suitably to the same ideas, we shall observe them framing all their future plans of civil and ecclesiastical policy. The king, though abundantly vigilant in observing and checking slighter encroachments on his prerogative, was either so much occupied at that time with other cares occasioned by his fatal breach with his parliament, that he could not attend to the proceedings of the company; or he was so much pleased with the prospect of removing a body of turbulent subjects to a distant country, where they might be useful, and could not prove dangerous, that
he

he was disposed to connive at the irregularity of a measure which facilitated their departure.

BOOK
X.

WITHOUT interruption from the crown, the adventurers proceeded to carry their scheme into execution. In a general court, John Winthrop was appointed governor, and Thomas Dudley deputy-governor, and eighteen assistants were chosen; in whom, together with the body of freemen who should settle in New England, were vested all the corporate rights of the company. With such zeal and activity did they prepare for emigration, that in the course of the ensuing year seventeen ships sailed for New England, and aboard these above fifteen hundred persons, among whom were several of respectable families, and in easy circumstances. On their arrival in New England, many were so ill-satisfied with the situation of Salem, that they explored the country in quest of some better station; and settling in different places around the

Colony
extended.

1630.

BOOK
X.

Bay, according to their various fancies, laid the foundations of Boston, Charlestown, Dorchester, Roxborough, and other towns, which have since become considerable in the province. In each of these a church was established on the same model with that of Salem. This, together with the care of making provision for their subsistence during winter, occupied them entirely during some months. But in the

- Qa. 19. first general court, their disposition to consider themselves as members of an independent society, unconfined by the regulations in their charter, began to appear. The election of the governor and deputy governor, the appointment of all other officers, and even the power of making laws, all which were granted by the charter to the freemen, were taken from them, and vested in the council of assistants. But the aristocratical spirit of this resolution did not accord with the ideas of equality prevalent among the people, who had been surprised
1631. into an approbation of it. Next year the freemen,

freemen, whose numbers had been greatly augmented by the admission of new members, resumed their former rights. BOOK
X.

BUT, at the same time, they ventured to deviate from the charter in a matter of greater moment, which deeply affected all the future operations of the colony, and contributed greatly to form that peculiar character by which the people of New England have been distinguished. A law was passed, declaring that none shall hereafter be admitted freemen, or be entitled to any share in the government, or be capable of being chosen magistrates, or even of serving as jurymen, but such as have been received into the church as members*. By this resolution, every person who did not hold the favourite opinions concerning the doctrines of religion, the discipline of the church, or the rites of worship, was at once cast out of the society, and stripped of all the privileges of a citizen. An uncon-

None but
members
of the
church
admitted
as free-
men.

* Hutchinson, p. 26. Chalmers, p. 153.

BOOK X. trolled power of approving or rejecting the

claims of those who applied for admission into communion with the church being vested in the ministers and leading men of each congregation, the most valuable of all civil rights was made to depend on their decision with respect to qualifications purely

Pernicious
consequences
of this regulation.

ecclesiastical. As in examining into these, they proceeded not by any known or established rules, but exercised a discretionary judgment, the clergy rose gradually to a degree of influence and authority, from which the levelling spirit of the independent church policy was calculated to exclude them. As by their determination the political condition of every citizen was fixed, all paid court to men possessed of such an important power, by assuming those austere and sanctimonious manners which were known to be the most certain recommendation to their favour. In consequence of this ascendant, which was acquired chiefly by the wildest enthusiasts among the clergy, their notions became a standard

standard to which all studied to conform, and the singularities characteristic of the Puritans in that age increased, of which many remarkable instances will occur in the course of our narrative.

BOOK
X.

THOUGH a considerable number of planters was cut off by the diseases prevalent in a country so imperfectly cultivated by its original inhabitants as to be still almost one continued forest, and several, discouraged by the hardships to which they were exposed, returned to England, recruits sufficient to replace them arrived. At the same time the small-pox, a distemper fatal to the people of the New World, swept away such multitudes of the natives that some whole tribes disappeared; and Heaven, by thus evacuating a country in which the English might settle without molestation, was supposed to declare its intention that they should occupy it.

Indian territories depopulated by the small-pox.

1632.

As several of the vacant Indian stations were well chosen, such was the eagerness

Settlements of the colo-

BOOK of the English to take possession of them,
 { **X.** that their settlements became more nume-
 nists ex- rous and more widely dispersed than suited
 tended. the condition of an infant colony. This
 led to an innovation which totally altered
 the nature and constitution of the govern-
 ment. When a general court was to be
 held in the year one thousand six hundred
 and thirty-four, the freemen, instead of
 attending it in person as the charter pre-
 scribed, elected representatives in their dif-
 ferent districts, authorizing them to appear
 in their name, with full power to deliberate
 and decide concerning every point that fell
 under the cognizance of the general court.
 Whether this measure was suggested by
 some designing leaders, or whether they
 found it prudent to sooth the people by
 complying with their inclination, is un-
 certain. The representatives were admitted;
 and considered themselves, in conjunction
 with the governor and assistants, as the
 supreme legislative assembly of the colony.
 In assertion of their own rights they en-
 acted, that no law should be passed, no tax
 should

1634.
 Freemen
 meet by
 represen-
 tatives.

should be imposed, and no public officers should be appointed, but in the general assembly. The pretexts for making this new arrangement were plausible. The number of freemen was greatly increased; many resided at a distance from the places where the supreme courts were held; personal attendance became inconvenient; the form of government in their own country had rendered familiar the idea of delegating their rights, and committing the guardianship of their liberties, to representatives of their own choice, and the experience of ages had taught them that this important trust might with safety be lodged in their hands. Thus did the company of Massachusetts Bay, in less than six years from its incorporation by the king, mature and perfect a scheme which, I have already observed, some of its more artful and aspiring leaders seem to have had in view when the association for peopling New England was first formed. The colony must henceforward be considered, not as a corporation whose powers

BOOK
X.

Extent of
political
liberty as-
sumed by
the assem-
bly.

BOOK were defined, and its mode of procedure regulated by its charter, but as a society, which, having acquired or assumed political liberty, had, by its own voluntary deed, adopted a constitution or government framed on the model of that in England.

*Spirit of
fanaticism
increases.*

BUT however liberal their system of civil policy might be, as their religious opinions were no longer under any restraint of authority, the spirit of fanaticism continued to spread, and became every day wilder and more extravagant. Williams, a minister of Salem, in high estimation, having conceived an antipathy to the cross of St. George in the standard of England, declaimed against it with so much vehemence as a relic of superstition and idolatry which ought not to be retained among a people so pure and sanctified, that Endicott, one of the members of the court of assistants, in a transport of zeal, publicly cut out the cross from the ensign displayed before the governor's gate. This frivolous matter

matter interested and divided the colo-BOOK
ny. Some of the militia scrupled to X.
follow colours in which there was a cross,
lest they should do honour to an idol:
others refused to serve under a mutilated
banner, lest they should be suspected of
having renounced their allegiance to the
crown of England. After a long contro-
versy, carried on by both parties with that
heat and zeal which in trivial disputes sup-
ply the want of argument, the contest was
terminated by a compromise. The cross
was retained in the ensigns of forts and
ships, but erased from the colours of the
militia. Williams, on account of this, as
well as of some other doctrines deemed
unsound, was banished out of the colony*.

THE prosperous state of New England New set-
tlers.
was now so highly extolled, and the simple
frame of its ecclesiastic policy was so much
admired by all whose affections were

* Neal's Hist. of N. Eng. p. 140, &c. Hutch-
inson, p. 37. Chalmers, p. 156.

BOOK
X.

1635.

estranged from the church of England, that crowds of new settlers flocked thither. Among these were two persons, whose names have been rendered memorable by the appearance which they afterwards made on a more conspicuous theatre: one was Hugh Peters, the enthusiastic and intriguing chaplain of Oliver Cromwell; the other Mr. Henry Vane, son of Sir Henry Vane, a privy counsellor, high in office, and of great credit with the king; a young man of a noble family, animated with such zeal for pure religion and such love of liberty as induced him to relinquish all his hopes in England, and to settle in a colony hitherto no farther advanced in improvement than barely to afford subsistence to its members, was received with the fondest admiration. His mortified appearance, his demure look, and rigid manners, carried even beyond the standard of preciseness in that society which he joined, seemed to indicate a man of high spiritual attainments, while his abilities and address in business pointed

pointed him out as worthy of the highest BOOK
station in the community. With universal ^{X.}
consent, and high expectations of advantage 1636.
from his administration, he was elected
governor in the year subsequent to his arrival.
But as the affairs of an infant colony
afforded not objects adequate to the talents
of Vane, his busy pragmatistical spirit occupied
itself with theological subtilties and
speculations unworthy of his attention.
These were excited by a woman, whose
reveries produced such effects both within
the colony and beyond its precincts, that,
frivolous as they may now appear, they
must be mentioned as an occurrence of
importance in its history.

It was the custom at that time in New Antino-
England, among the chief men in every mian sect.
congregation, to meet once a week, in
order to repeat the sermons which they
had heard, and to hold religious conference
with respect to the doctrine contained
in them. Mrs. Hutchinson, whose husband

was

BOOK was among the most respectable members
X. of the colony, regretting that persons of
her sex were excluded from the benefit of
those meetings, assembled statedly in her
house a number of women, who employed
themselves in pious exercises similar to those
of the men. At first she satisfied herself
with repeating what she could recollect of
the discourses delivered by their teachers.
She began afterwards to add illustrations,
and at length proceeded to censure some
of the clergy as unsound, and to vent opi-
nions and fancies of her own. These were
all founded on the system which is deno-
minated Antinomian by divines, and tinged
with the deepest enthusiasm. She taught,
that sanctity of life is no evidence of justi-
fication, or of a state of favour with God;
and that such as inculcated the necessity of
manifesting the reality of our faith by obe-
dience, preached only a covenant of works:
she contended that the spirit of God dwelt
personally in good men, and by inward
revelations and impressions they received
the

the fullest discoveries of the divine will. **BOOK**

X.

The fluency and confidence with which she delivered these notions gained her many admirers and proselytes, not only among the vulgar, but among the principal inhabitants. The whole colony was interested and agitated. Vane, whose sagacity and acuteness seemed to forsake him whenever they were turned towards religion, espoused and defended her wildest tenets. Many conferences were held, days of fasting and humiliation were appointed, a general synod was called, and, after dissensions so violent as threatened the dissolution of the colony, Mrs. Hutchinson's opinions were condemned as erroneous, and she herself banished. Several of her disciples withdrew from the province of their own accord. Vane quitted America in disgust, unlamented even by those who had lately admired him; some of whom now regarded him as a mere visionary, and others as one of those dark turbulent spirits doomed to embroil

1637.
Their doctrines condemned by a general synod.

BOOK embroil every society into which they
 X. enter *.

The sec-
 taries set-
 tle in Pro-
 vidence
 and Rhode
 Island.

HOWEVER much these theological con-
 tests might disquiet the colony of Massa-
 chusets Bay, they contributed to the more
 speedy population of America. When
 Williams was banished from Salem in the
 year one thousand six hundred and thirty-
 four, such was the attachment of his hearers
 to a pastor whose piety they revered, that a
 good number of them voluntarily accom-
 panied him in his exile. They directed
 their march towards the south; and having
 purchased from the natives a considerable
 tract of land, to which Williams gave the
 name of Providence, they settled there.
 They were joined soon after by some of
 those to whom the proceedings against
 Mrs. Hutchinson gave disgust; and by a
 transaction with the Indians they obtained

* Mather, book vii. c. 3. Hutchinson, p. 53. 74.
 Neal, p. 1. 144. 165, &c. Chalmers, p. 163.

a right

a right to a fertile island in Naraganset Bay, which acquired the name of Rhode Island. BOOK
X.

Williams remained among them upwards of forty years, respected as the father and the guide of the colony which he had planted. His spirit differed from that of the Puritans in Massachusetts; it was mild and tolerating; and having ventured himself to reject established opinions, he endeavoured to secure the same liberty to other men, by maintaining, that the exercise of private judgment was a natural and sacred right; that the civil magistrate has no compulsive jurisdiction in the concerns of religion; that the punishment of any person on account of his opinions, was an encroachment on conscience, and an act of persecution *. These humane principles he instilled into his followers; and all who felt or dreaded oppression in other settlements, resorted to a community in which universal toleration was known to be a

Their moderation.

* Neal's Hist. of N. Eng. p. 141.

funda-

BOOK
X.

fundamental maxim. In the plantations of Providence and Rhode Island, political union was established by voluntary association, and the equality of condition among the members, as well as their religious opinions ; their form of government was purely democratical, the supreme power being lodged in the freemen personally assembled. In this state they remained until they were incorporated by charter *.

Colony of
Connecti-
cut.

To similar causes the colony of Connecticut is indebted for its origin. The rivalry between Mr. Cotton and Mr. Hooker, two favourite ministers in the settlement of Massachusetts Bay, disposed the latter, who was least successful in this contest for fame and power, to wish for some settlement at a distance from a competitor by whom his reputation was eclipsed. A good number of those who had imbibed Mrs. Hutchinson's notions, and were of-

* Hutchinson, p. 38. Neal, ii. 142. Dougl. Sum. ii. p. 76, &c. Chalmers, ch. ii.

fended at such as combated them, offered to BOOK
accompany him. Having employed pro- X.
per persons to explore the country, they
pitched upon the west side of the great
river Connecticut as the most inviting sta-
tion; and in the year one thousand six
hundred and thirty-six, about an hundred
persons, with their wives and families, after
a fatiguing march of many days through
woods and swamps, arrived there, and laid
the foundation of the towns of Hartford,
Springfield, and Weatherfield. This settle-
ment was attended with peculiar irregu-
larities. Part of the district now occupied
lay beyond the limits of the territory grant-
ed to the colony of Massachusetts Bay, and
yet the emigrants took a commission from
the governor and court of assistants, em-
powering them to exercise jurisdiction in
that country. The Dutch from Manha-
dos or New York, having discovered the
river Connecticut, and established some
trading houses upon it, had acquired all the
right that prior possession confers. Lord
Say

BOOK Say and Sele and Lord Brook, the heads of
X.
two illustrious families, were so much alarmed at the arbitrary measures of Charles I. both in his civil and ecclesiastical administration, that they took a resolution, not unbecoming young men of noble birth and liberal sentiments, of retiring to the New World, in order to enjoy such a form of religion as they approved of, and those liberties which they deemed essential to the well-being of society. They, too, fixed on the banks of the Connecticut as their place of settlement, and had taken possession, by building a fort at the mouth of the river, which, from their united names, was called Say Brook. The emigrants from Massachusetts, without regarding either the defects in their own right or the pretensions of other claimants, kept possession, and proceeded with vigour to clear and cultivate the country. By degrees they got rid of every competitor. The Dutch, recently settled in America, and too feeble to engage in a war, peaceably withdrew from Connecticut.

necticut. Lord Say and Sele and Lord **BOOK**
 Brook made over to the colony whatever **X.**
 title they might have to any lands in that
 region. Society was established by a vo-
 luntary compact of the freemen; and though
 they soon disclaimed all dependence on the
 colony of Massachusetts Bay, they retained
 such veneration for its legislative wisdom,
 as to adopt a form of government nearly
 resembling its institutions, with respect both
 to civil and ecclesiastical policy. At a sub-
 sequent period, the colony of Connecticut
 was likewise incorporated by royal charter*.

THE history of the first attempts to people **Of New**
 the provinces of New Hampshire and Main, **Hamp-**
 which form the fourth and most exten- **shire and**
 sive division in New England, is obscure **Main.**
 and perplexed, by the interfering claims of
 various proprietors. The company of Ply-
 mouth had inconsiderately parcelled out the
 northern part of the territory contained in

* Hutchinson, p. 44, &c. Neal, i. 147. Dou-
 glas, ii. 158, &c. Chalmers' Annals, ch. 12.

BOOK its grant among different persons: of these

X.

only Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Captain Mason seem to have had any serious intention to occupy the lands allotted to them. Their efforts to accomplish this were meritorious and persevering, but unsuccessful. The expence of settling colonies in an uncultivated country must necessarily be great and immediate; the prospect of a return is often uncertain and always remote. The funds of two private adventurers were not adequate to such an undertaking. Nor did the planters whom they sent out possess that principle of enthusiasm, which animated their neighbours of Massachusetts with vigour, to struggle through all the hardships and dangers to which society, in its infancy, is exposed in a savage land. Gorges and Mason, it is probable, must have abandoned their design, if, from the same motives that settlements had been made in Rhode Island and Connecticut, colonists had not unexpectedly migrated into New Hampshire and Main. Mr. Wheelwright,
a minister

a minister of some note, nearly related to BOOK
X.
Mrs. Hutchinson, and one of her most fervent admirers and partisans, had, on this account, been banished from the province of Massachusetts Bay *. In quest of a new station, he took a course opposite to the other exiles; and advancing towards the north, founded the town of Exeter, on a small river flowing into Piscataqua Bay. His followers, few in number, but firmly united, were of such rigid principles, that even the churches of Massachusetts did not appear to them sufficiently pure. From time to time they received some recruits, whom love of novelty, or dissatisfaction with the ecclesiastical institutions of the other colonies, prompted to join them. Their plantations were widely dispersed, but the country was thinly peopled, and its political state extremely unsettled. The colony of Massachusetts Bay claimed jurisdiction over them, as occupying lands situated within the limits of their grant. Gorges and Mason

* Hutchinson, p. 70.

BOOK

X.

asserted the rights conveyed to them as proprietors by their charter. In several districts, the planters, without regarding the pretensions of either party, governed themselves by maxims and laws copied from those of their brethren in the adjacent colonies *. The first reduction of the political constitution in the provinces of New Hampshire and Main into a regular and permanent form, was subsequent to the revolution.

By extending their settlements, the English became exposed to new danger. The tribes of Indians around Massachusetts Bay were feeble and unwarlike; yet from regard to justice, as well as motives of prudence, the first colonists were studious to obtain the consent of the natives before they ventured to occupy any of their lands; and though in such transactions the consideration given was often very inadequate to the value of the territory acquired, it was suf-

* Hutchinson, p. 103, &c. 176. Douglas's Sum. ii. 22, &c. Chalmers' Annals, ch. 17.

sufficient to satisfy the demands of the proprietors. The English took quiet possession of the lands thus conveyed to them, and no open hostility broke out between them and the ancient possessors. But the colonies of Providence and Connecticut soon found that they were surrounded by more powerful and martial nations.

BOOK
X.

The farther encroachments of the English resisted by the natives.

Among these the most considerable were the Naragansets and Pequods; the former seated on the Bay which bears their name, and the latter occupying the territory which stretches from the river Pequod along the banks of the Connecticut. The Pequods were a formidable people, who could bring into the field a thousand warriors, not inferior in courage to any in the New World. They foresaw, not only that the extermination of the Indian race must be the consequence of permitting the English to spread over the continent of America, but that if measures were not speedily concerted to prevent it, the calamity would be unavoidable. With this view they applied to the

BOOK
X.

Naragansets, requesting them to forget ancient animosities for a moment, and to co-operate with them in expelling a common enemy who threatened both with destruction. They represented that, when those strangers first landed, the object of their visit was not suspected, and no proper precautions were taken to check their progress; that now, by sending out colonies in one year towards three different quarters, their intentions were manifest, and the people of America must abandon their native seats to make way for unjust intruders.

War with
the Pe-
quod
tribes.

BUT the Naragansets and Pequods, like most of the contiguous tribes in America, were rivals, and there subsisted between them an hereditary and implacable enmity. Revenge is the darling passion of savages; in order to secure the indulgence of which there is no present advantage that they will not sacrifice, and no future consequence which they do not totally disregard. The Naragansets, instead of closing with the prudent proposal of their neighbours, dis-

covered their hostile intentions to the go-
vernor of Massachusetts Bay; and, eager to
lay hold on such a favourable opportunity
of wreaking their vengeance on their an-
cient foes, entered into an alliance with
the English against them. The Pequods,
more exasperated than discouraged by the
imprudence and treachery of their country-
men, took the field, and carried on the war
in the usual mode of Americans. They
surprised stragglers, and scalped them; they
plundered and burnt remote settlements;
they attacked Fort Say Brook without suc-
cess, though garrisoned only by twenty
men; and when the English began to act
offensively, they retired to fastnesses which
they deemed inaccessible. The different co-
lonies had agreed to unite against the com-
mon enemy, each furnishing a quota of
men in proportion to its numbers. The
troops of Connecticut which lay most ex-
posed to danger were soon assembled. The
march of those from Massachusetts, which
formed the most considerable body, was re-
tarded by the most singular cause that ever

BOOK

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X.Purifica-
tion of the
army.

influenced the operations of a military force. When they were mustered previous to their departure, it was found that some of the officers, as well as of the private soldiers, were still under a covenant of works; and that the blessing of God could not be implored or expected to crown the arms of such unhallowed men with success. The alarm was general, and many arrangements necessary in order to cast out the unclean, and to render this little band sufficiently pure to fight the battles of a people who entertained high ideas of their own sanctity*.

Defeat of
the In-
dians.

MEANWHILE the Connecticut troops, reinforced by a small detachment from Say Brook, found it necessary to advance towards the enemy. They were posted on a rising ground, in the middle of a swamp towards the head of the river Mistick, which they had surrounded with palisades, the best defence that their slender

* Neal, i. 168.

skill

skill in the art of fortification had discovered. Though they knew that the English were in motion, yet, with the usual improvidence and security of savages, they took no measures either to observe their progress, or to guard against being surprised themselves. The enemy, unperceived, reached the palisadoes, and if a dog had not given the alarm by barking, the Indians must have been massacred without resistance. In a moment, however, they started to arms, and raising the war-cry, prepared to repel the assailants. But at that early period of their intercourse with the Europeans, the Americans were little acquainted with the use of gunpowder, and dreaded its effects extremely. While some of the English galled them with an incessant fire through the intervals between the palisadoes, others forced their way by the entries into the fort, filled only with branches of trees; and setting fire to the huts which were covered with reeds, the confusion and terror quickly became general. Many of the women and children perished

BOOK

X.

May 20.

BOOK ^{X.} perished in the flames; and the warriors, in endeavouring to escape, were either slain by the English, or falling into the hands of their Indian allies, who surrounded the fort at a distance, were reserved for a more cruel fate. After the junction of the troops from Massachusetts, the English resolved to pursue their victory; and hunting the Indians from one place of retreat to another, some subsequent encounters were hardly less fatal to them than the action on the Mistick. In less than three months the tribe of Pequods was extirpated: a few miserable fugitives who took refuge among the neighbouring Indians, being incorporated by them, lost their name as a distinct people.

Cruelties
exercised
against the
Indians.

In this first essay of their arms, the colonists of New England seem to have been conducted by skilful and enterprising officers, and displayed both courage and perseverance as soldiers. But they stained their laurels by the use which they made of victory. Instead of treating the Pequods as an independent people, who made a gallant effort to defend the property, the rights,
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and the freedom of their nation, they re-BOOK
taliated upon them all the barbarities of X.
American war. Some they massacred in
cold blood, others they gave up to be tor-
tured by their Indian allies, a considerable
number they sold as slaves in Bermudas,
the rest were reduced to servitude among
themselves*.

BUT reprehensible as this conduct of the
English must be deemed, their vigorous
efforts in this decisive campaign filled all
the surrounding tribes of Indians with such
an high opinion of their valour as se-
cured a long tranquillity to all their settle-
ments. At the same time the violence of
administration in England continued to in-
crease their population and strength, by
forcing many respectable subjects to tear
themselves from all the tender connections
that bind men to their native country, and

Emigra-
tions from
England.

* Hutchinson, p. 58. 76, &c. Mather, Magnalia,
b. vii. ch. 6. Hubbard's State of N. Eng. p. 5. 116,
&c.

BOOK

X.

Prohibit-
ed by royal
proclama-
tion.

to fly for refuge to a region of the New World, which hitherto presented to them nothing that could allure them thither but exemption from oppression. The number of those emigrants drew the attention of government, and appeared so formidable, that a proclamation was issued, prohibiting masters of ships from carrying passengers to New England without special permission. On many occasions this injunction was eluded or disregarded. Fatally for the king, it operated with full effect in one instance. Sir Arthur Haslerig, John Hampden, Oliver Cromwell, and some other persons whose principles and views coincided with theirs, impatient to enjoy those civil and religious liberties which they struggled in vain to obtain in Great Britain, hired some ships to carry them and their attendants to New England. By order of council, an embargo was laid on these when on the point of sailing; and Charles, far from suspecting that the future revolutions in his kingdoms were to be excited and directed

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by persons in such an humble sphere of life, forcibly detained the men destined to overturn his throne, and to terminate his days by a violent death *.

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BUT, in spite of all the efforts of government to check this spirit of migration, the measures of the king and his ministers were considered by a great body of the people as so hostile to those rights which they deemed most valuable, that in the course of the year one thousand six hundred and thirty-eight, above three thousand persons embarked for New England, choosing rather to expose themselves to all the consequences of disregarding the royal proclamation, than to remain longer under oppression. Exasperated at this contempt of his authority, Charles had recourse to a violent but effectual mode of accomplishing what he had in view. A writ of *quo warranto* was issued against the corpo-

* Mather, *Magnalia*, b. i. ch. 5. p. 23. Neal's *Hist. of N. Eng.* i. 151. Chalmers' *Annals*, i. 155. 160, &c.

BOOK ration of Massachusetts Bay. The colonists
 X. had conformed so little to the terms of their
 Colony of charter, that judgment was given against
 Massachu- them without difficulty. They were found
 setts Bay sued at law, and found to have forfeited its
 rights. to have forfeited all their rights as a cor-
 poration, which of course returned to the
 crown, and Charles began to take mea-
 sures for new modelling the political frame
 of the colony, and vesting the administra-
 tion of its affairs in other hands. But his
 plans were never carried into execution. In
 every corner of his dominions, the storm
 now began to gather, which soon burst out
 with such fatal violence, that Charles, dur-
 ing the remainder of his unfortunate reign,
 occupied with domestic and more interesting
 cares, had not leisure to bestow any atten-
 tion upon a remote and inconsiderable pro-
 vince*.

ON the meeting of the Long Parliament,
 such a Revolution took place in England,

* Hutchinson, p. 86, 502, &c. Chalmers' Annals,
 i. 161.

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that all the motives for migrating to the new world ceased. The maxims of the Puritans with respect to the government both of church and state, became predominant in the nation, and were enforced by the hand of power. Their oppressors were humbled; that perfect system of reformed polity, which had long been the object of their admiration and desire, was established by law; and amidst the intrigues and conflicts of an obstinate civil war, turbulent and aspiring spirits found such full occupation, that they had no inducement to quit a busy theatre, on which they had risen to act a most conspicuous part. From the year one thousand six hundred and twenty, when the first feeble colony was conducted to New England by the Brownists, to the year one thousand six hundred and forty, it has been computed, that twenty-one thousand two hundred British subjects had settled there. The money expended by various adventurers during that period in fitting out ships, in purchasing stock,

BOOK
X.State of
the colonies at this
period.

BOOK stock, and transporting settlers, amounted,
X. on a moderate calculation, nearly to two hundred thousand pounds *: a vast sum in that age, and which no principles, inferior in force to those wherewith the Puritans were animated, could have persuaded men to lay out, on the uncertain prospect of obtaining an establishment in a remote uncultivated region, which, from its situation and climate, could allure them with no hope but that of finding subsistence and enjoying freedom. For some years, even subsistence was procured with difficulty; and it was towards the close of the period to which our narrative is arrived, before the product of the settlement yielded the planters any return for their stock. About that time they began to export corn in small quantities to the West Indies, and made some feeble attempts to extend the fishery, and to open the trade in lumber, which have since proved the staple articles of

* Mather, b. i. ch. 4, p. 17. ch. 5. p. 23. Hutchinson, p. 193. Chalmers' Annals, p. 165.

commerce

commerce in the colony *. Since the year BOOK
X.
one thousand six hundred and forty, the number of people with which New England has recruited the population of the parent state, is supposed at least to equal what may have been drained from it by occasional migrations thither.

BUT though the sudden change of system in Great Britain stopt entirely the influx of settlers into New England, the principles of the colonists coincided so perfectly with those of the popular leaders in parliament, that they were soon distinguished by peculiar marks of their brotherly affection. By a vote of the House of Commons in the year one thousand six hundred and forty-two, the people in all the different plantations of New England were exempted from payment of any duties, either upon goods exported thither, or upon those which they imported into the mother country, until the House shall take farther order to the con-

Exemption from certain duties granted to the colonies.

* Hutchinson, p. 91, 92.

BOOK trary. This was afterwards confirmed by
X. the authority of both Houses. Encouraged
 1646. by such an extraordinary privilege, industry
 made rapid progress in all the districts of
 New England, and population increased
 along with it. In return for those favours,
 the colonists applauded the measures of par-
 liament, celebrated its generous efforts to
 vindicate the rights and liberties of the na-
 tion, prayed for the success of its arms,
 and framed regulations in order to prevent
 any exertion in favour of the king on the
 other side of the Atlantic *.

RELYING on the indulgent partiality with
 which all their proceedings were viewed by
 men thus closely united with them in senti-
 ments and wishes, the people of New Eng-
 land ventured on a measure, which not only
 increased their security and power, but may
 be regarded as a considerable step towards
 independence. Under the impression or

* Hutchinson, p. 114. App. 517. Chalmers' An-
 nals, i. 174. 176.

pretext of the danger to which they were exposed from the surrounding tribes of Indians, the four colonies of Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut, and Newhaven, entered into a league of perpetual confederacy, offensive and defensive; an idea familiar to several leading men in the colonies, as it was framed in imitation of the famous bond of union among the Dutch provinces, in whose dominions the Brownists had long resided. It was stipulated, that the confederates should henceforth be distinguished by the name of the United Colonies of New England; that each colony shall remain separate and distinct, and have exclusive jurisdiction within its own territory; that in every war offensive or defensive, each of the confederates shall furnish its quota of men, provisions, and money, at a rate to be fixed from time to time, in proportion to the number of people in each settlement; that an assembly composed of two commissioners from each colony shall be held annually, with power to

BOOK
X.

1643.
May 19.
Confederacy of the
New England states.

BOOK deliberate and decide in all points of common concern to the confederacy ; and every

X.

determination, in which six of their number concur, shall be binding on the whole *.

In this transaction the colonies of New England seem to have considered themselves as independent societies, possessing all the rights of sovereignty, and free from the controul of any superior power. The governing party in England, occupied with affairs of more urgent concern, and no wise disposed to observe the conduct of their brethren in America with any jealous attention, suffered the measure to pass without animadversion.

EMBOLDENED by this connivance the spirit of independence gathered strength, and soon displayed itself more openly : some persons of note in the colony of Massachusetts, averse to the system of ecclesiastical polity established there, and preferring to it the government and discipline

* Neal's Hist. of N. Eng. i. 202, &c. Hutchinson, p. 124. Chalmers' Ann. p. 177.

of the churches of England or Scotland, BOOK
X.
having remonstrated to the general court
against the injustice of depriving them of 1646.
their rights as freemen, and of their privi-
leges as Christians, because they could not
join as members with any of the con-
gregational churches, petitioned that they
might no longer be bound to obey laws to
which they had not assented, nor be subject
to taxes imposed by an assembly in which
they were not represented. Their demands
were not only rejected, but they were im-
prisoned and fined as disturbers of the
public peace; and when they appointed
some of their number to lay their griev-
ances before parliament, the annual court,
in order to prevent this appeal to the
supreme power, attempted first to seize
their papers, and then to obstruct their
embarkation for England. But though
neither of these could be accomplished,
such was the address and influence of the
colonies' agents in England, that no in-
quiry seems to have been made into this

Petition of
the Dis-
senters re-
jected.

BOOK transaction *. This was followed by an
 X. indication, still less ambiguous, of the aspir-
 ing spirit prevalent among the people of
 Massachusetts. Under every form of go-
 vernment the right of coining money has
 been considered as a prerogative peculiar to
 sovereignty, and which no subordinate
 member in any state is entitled to claim.
 Regardless of this established maxim, the
 general court ordered a coinage of silver
 money at Boston, stamped with the name
 of the colony, and a tree as an apt symbol
 of its progressive vigour †. Even this
 usurpation escaped without notice. The
 Independents, having now humbled all
 rival sects, engrossed the whole direction of
 affairs in Great Britain; and long accus-
 tomed to admire the government of New
 England, framed agreeably to those princi-
 ples which they had adopted as the most

1652.
 Right of
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 nists.

* Neal's Hist. N. Eng. i. 213. Hutchinson's Hist.
 145, &c. Collect. 188, &c. Chalm. Ann. 179.
 Mather, Magnal. B. iii. ch. i. p. 30.

† Hutchinson, 177, 178. Chalmers' Annals, p.
 187.

perfect model of civil and ecclesiastical BOOK
 polity, they were unwilling to stain its re- X.
 putation, by censuring any part of its
 conduct.

WHEN Cromwell usurped the supreme power, the colonies of New England continued to stand as high in his estimation. As he had deeply imbibed all the fanatical notions of the Independents, and was perpetually surrounded by the most eminent and artful teachers of that sect, he kept a constant correspondence with the leading men in the American settlements, who seem to have looked up to him as a zealous patron *. He in return considered them as his most devoted adherents, attached to him no less by affection than by principle. He soon gave a striking proof of this. On the conquest of Jamaica, he formed a scheme for the security and improvement of the acquisition made by his victorious arms, suited to the ardour of

Crom-
 well pa-
 tronises
 the New
 England
 colonies.

Proposes
 to trans-
 port the
 colonists
 to Jamai-
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* Hutchinson, App. 520, &c. Collect. p. 233.

BOOK an impetuous spirit that delighted in
X. accomplishing its ends by extraordinary
 means. He proposed to transport the people
 of New England to that island, and em-
 ployed every argument calculated to make
 impression upon them, in order to obtain
 their consent. He endeavoured to rouse
 their religious zeal by representing what a
 fatal blow it would be to the man of sin, if
 a colony of the faithful were settled in the
 midst of his territories in the new world.
 He allured them with prospects of immense
 wealth in a fertile region, which would re-
 ward the industry of those who cultivated
 it, with all the precious productions of the
 torrid zone, and expressed his fervent wish
 that they might take possession of it, in
 order to fulfil God's promise of making his
 people the head and not the tail. He as-
 sured them of being supported by the whole
 force of his authority, and of vesting all the
 powers of government entirely in their
 hands. But by this time the colonists were
 attached to a country in which they had
 resided

Colonists
 decline ac-
 cepting
 this offer.

resided for many years, and where, though **BOOK**
they did not attain opulence, they enjoyed **X.**
the comforts of life in great abundance;
and they dreaded so much the noxious
climate of the West Indies, which had
proved fatal to a great number of the Eng-
lish who first settled in Jamaica, that they
declined, though in the most respectful
terms, closing with the Protector's proposi-
tion *.

* Hutchinson, p. 190, &c. Chalmers, p. 183.

THE END.

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